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No. 11



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AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
ASSOCIATION

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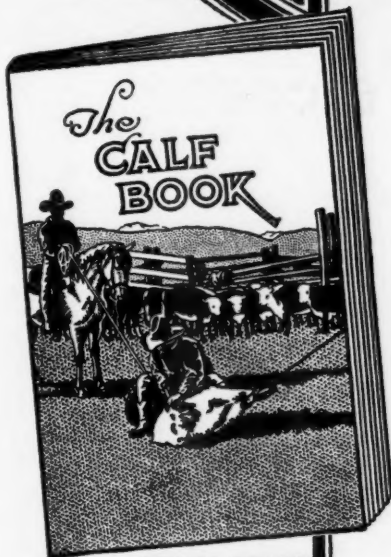
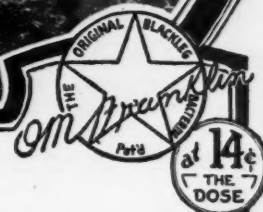
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THE PRODUCER

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume XI

DENVER, COLORADO, APRIL, 1930

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Agriculture in Scandinavia

III. Sweden—Her Farms, Forests, and Factories

BY WILL C. BARNES

Washington, D. C.

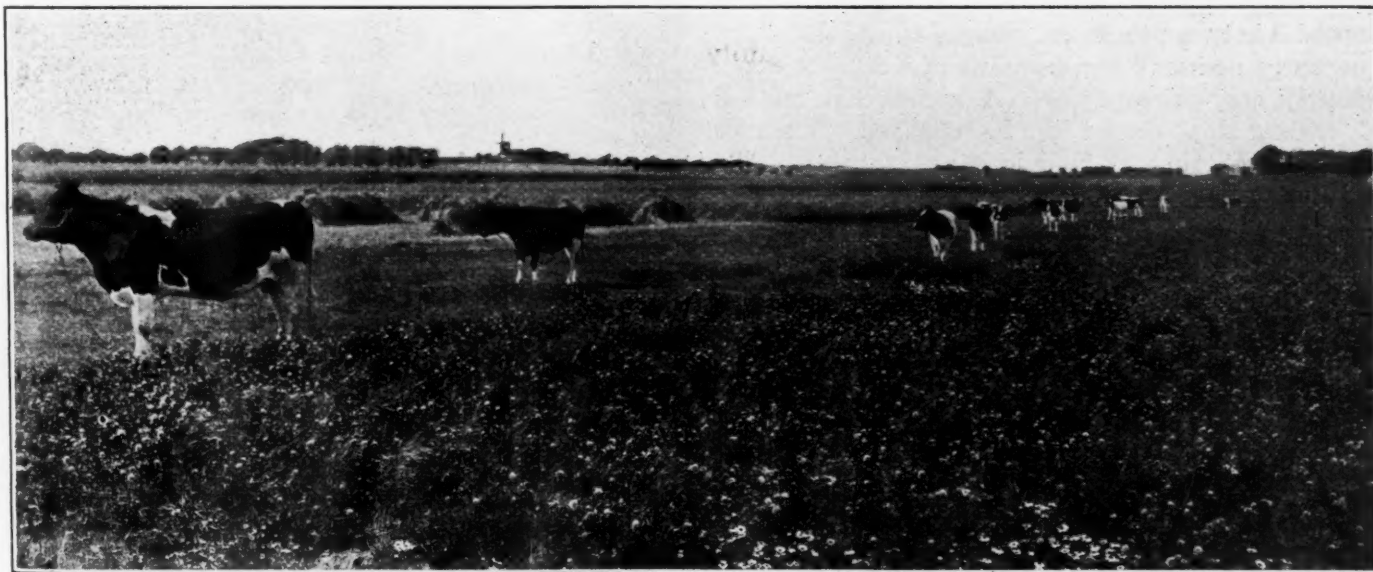


IN COPENHAGEN WE SAID: "WE WANT TO see the best part of agricultural Sweden in the shortest possible time." Our Danish courier spoke excellent English and knew Sweden very well. "You Americans," he smiled kindly, "are always in a hurry. Here you have come more than 3,000 miles to see Scandinavia, and can't take the time to see it right. However, if you will do it, take one of the many ferries across the Sound to Malmö. There you will be in the very heart of agricultural Sweden. From there go north to Gothenburg, take the Göta Canal to Stock-

holm, then swing north to Dalecarlia and around to the west to Oslo. You will then have seen the best of Sweden's farming regions." We followed his advice.

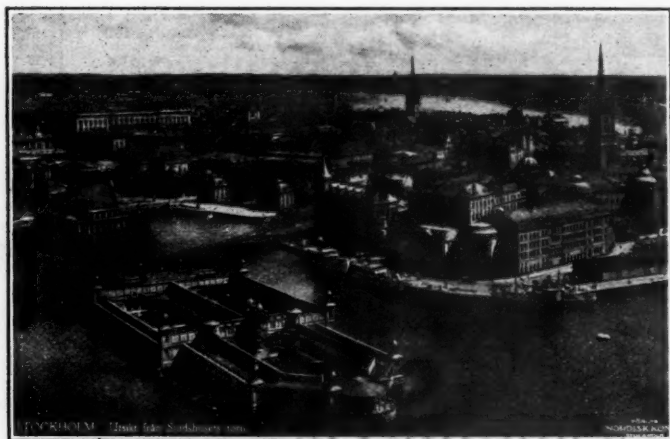
The Sound that separates Denmark from Sweden is not wide. One can almost see across it. Occasionally it freezes up, and then shipping is idle. They say the Swedes, many years ago, marched their army across the ice—so thin that the Danes did not expect the hostile visit, and were taken completely by surprise.

Malmö—a fine city of 150,000 people—is the cap-



TETHERED COWS ON PASTURE IN SOUTHERN SWEDEN

ital of the province of Skane, or Scania, called the "Granary of Sweden." Here they grow sugar-beets enough to supply the nation with sugar, while all the small grains flourish. Measured by farms in our West, the holdings are small. The country is fairly



VIEW OVER STOCKHOLM FROM CITY HALL TOWER

level, full of lovely lakes and streams. As elsewhere in Sweden, every waterfall is harnessed and producing cheap power, for the farmers as well as the cities. We learned, to our great surprise, that Stockholm, for example, has more telephones per capita than any other city in the world. They certainly are plentiful, and give good service.

There seemed to be less farm machinery in use than we saw in Denmark, but man-power is very cheap—how cheap is best illustrated by a story. At one of the *fjord* cities our ship stopped to coal. A barge-load of coal was brought alongside by a fussy little tug, carrying a dozen men. A steel chute, leading down into the bowels of the ship, was put in place. Then, by means of heavy baskets holding about two bushels each, the ship was coaled. Two men stood at a basket, while two others filled it. Then the two carried it between them and dumped it into the chute. There was no hurry nor crowding of work. It was a leisurely, easy-going process. A more archaic method of "coaling ship" cannot well be imagined. When we asked the captain why he did not use machinery, and coal in one-third the time, he merely replied: "Ah, these poor people, they must have work. They eat—machinery does not."

Large Variety of Fruits Grown

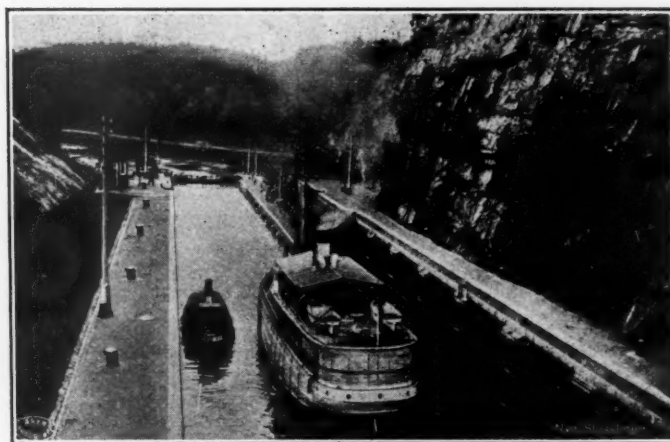
What surprised us most was the amount and quality of fruit raised all over Sweden. Peaches, apricots, grapes, plums, and other fruits flourish everywhere. This, of course, is due to the near-by Gulf Stream, which moderates an otherwise inhospitable climate. As for strawberries, raspberries, currants, and gooseberries, we found them everywhere—large, luscious, and exceedingly cheap in price. We had just finished

the season for them in the United States, and arrived in Sweden at the height of the season there.

As in Norway, the farmhouses were all comfortable and in good physical condition, with picturesque, red-tiled roofs. We tried to get the value of the farm lands, but found there was no real market value for them. They seldom are sold. A guide we employed explained that the young folks grow up on the farm, and then migrate to the United States or elsewhere, leaving the old folks to keep it going, and also sending back funds to help them out. As the years go by and the parents get old, the boys and girls come back to the homeland and occupy the farms, from which in turn their offspring will migrate to some other country. "But always," our guide said, "the Swedish farm remains in the same family, a haven for old age."

Unlike the Danes, who specialize in dairy products, the Swedish farmer raises a great variety of crops. You see few Jersey cattle. "They are too small for us," a farmer told me. "We want both milk and beef. The Jersey is a perfect milk machine, but nothing else." Mostly the cattle we saw were the Dutch Belted and Holsteins—large-boned, deep-bodied animals, but hardly up to our ideals as to breeding and conformation.

From Malmö northward to Gothenburg (Swedish: Göteborg) is a lovely region of fine farms and endless forests. Swedish railroads are first-class in every respect. It takes the conceit out of an American to find such comfortable, well-equipped trains and fine roadbeds. Somehow we went to Europe with the fixed



BOAT IN CROSS-COUNTRY CANAL LOCK

idea that our trains were far ahead of anything there. We know better now.

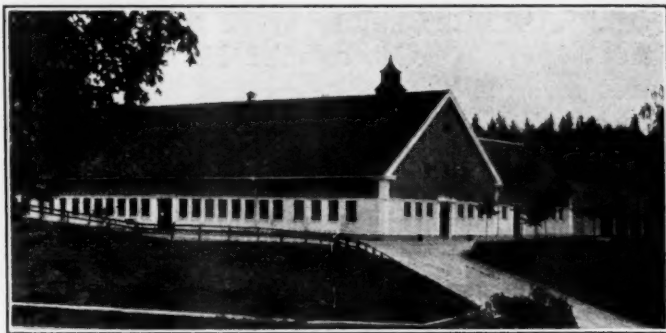
Gothenburg a Modern City

Gothenburg proved to be a fine, well-built city of over 250,000 inhabitants. The streets are wide and well paved. The Swedes are the only nation on earth that both drives and walks to the left. We had heart

failure fifty times a day while driving in their taxis. There are, by the way, many women taxi-drivers in both Denmark and Sweden. The city is built on a very rocky spot; but, unlike us Americans, these Swedes did not tear it down to a dull level. On the contrary, they preserved the hills and valleys, laying the city out to fit their curves. The streets swing around the points and down into the valleys in the most attractive manner. The houses, too, are built along the same plan, and the general effect is highly picturesque and charming—a city beautiful in every respect.

We drove for many miles through a great park, which in its wild beauty reminded us of our own Rock Creek Park in Washington. Here we found a vast forest of the same grand old beech trees that we admired so much in Denmark. We have nothing in America to equal them in beauty and size. And flowers—they are everywhere: flower-boxes in every window, even office windows in the city business blocks! They are fastened to the telephone and electric-light poles. In the railroad stations, where we have huge, unsightly piles of sand for the trains to "bump into," they have lovely flower-beds instead, which may occasionally be destroyed by a careless engineer, but are easily repaired. Flowers top the retaining-walls along the streets, line the curbs, and fill every vacant space—a regular riot of color and beauty.

An east-and-west line from Oslo in Norway across Sweden will strike the point north of Stockholm in Sweden where the Baltic Sea joins the Gulf of Bothnia. Below this line lie probably one-fourth of the total area of Sweden and fully four-fifths of her

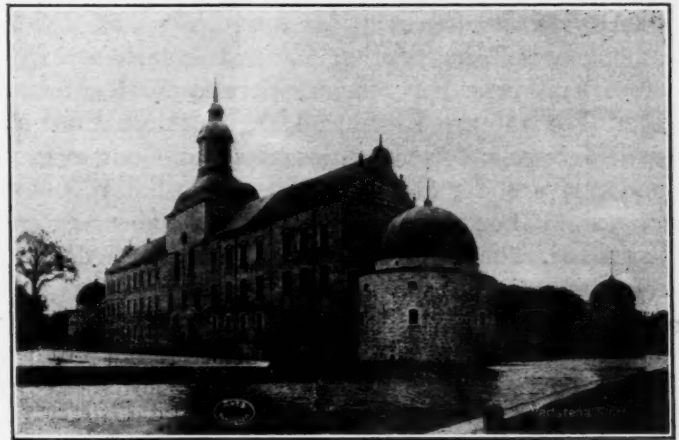


CATTLE-BARN ON SWEDISH FARM

agricultural land. On the west of this huge peninsula are two large bays or sounds—the Skagerrack and Kattegat; two odd names that brought back my boyhood school days and geography lessons. On the east lies the Baltic Sea. Here, looking out onto the Baltic, lies Stockholm, Sweden's capital, ice-bound for several months of each year.

For centuries, Stockholm was the only important seaport the Swedes owned. To reach it, they had to

sail from the North Sea into the Skagerrack and through the narrow Kattegat, both claimed by Denmark, into the Baltic. The Danes, for hundreds of years, were the bullies of the North, and, although their country was small in size, yet they collected mil-



OLD CASTLE AT VADSTENA

lions from shipping passing through these waters for ports on the Baltic and Gulf of Bothnia. Not a ship sailed through but that they levied toll upon it. To make the collection easier, the Danes built Kronborg—a huge fort facing the narrow Sound, on a point of their country which absolutely commanded every vessel passing in or out.

Canal Connects East and West Coast

In 1619 old Gustavus Adolphus, the Swedish king, decided he would have an open port on their west coast, the Danes to the contrary notwithstanding. So he built the city of Gothenburg on a fine harbor facing the North Sea and the Kattegat, which the kindly Gulf Stream keeps free from ice. His new city prospered amazingly; but still every vessel bound for Stockholm and other Swedish ports on the Baltic had to pay tribute to those nifty Danes. This was a heavy handicap. "Why can't we build an 'all-Swedish' canal straight across our own country from Gothenburg to Stockholm?" Gustavus asked his engineers. And so they did. It took them a hundred years to do it, but in that century the Swedes fought several wars, which kept them fairly busy, and the years passed pleasantly. In 1832 they sent the first vessel through from Gothenburg to Stockholm. And the Danes did not collect any toll on it, either.

Of the total length of this canal, which is 240 miles, only 56 were blasted or dug—mostly blasted out of solid rock. The rest was gained by using rivers and lakes en route. To get to Stockholm, the canal climbs up over 300 feet, and then comes down again. Seventy-one great stone locks are the staircases to go up and down this hill.

About the time the canal was finished and ready

for use, however, Uncle Sam got tired of paying toll on American vessels going into the Baltic, and headed a little insurrection against the Danes and their traffic charges. The result was that, in 1837, Denmark backed down and agreed to accept a lump sum of \$20,000,000 and call off her sea-traffic cops. We put up \$2,000,000 of it, and the rest was divided among a half-dozen other interested nations. Ever since that time the Skagerrack and Kattegat have been free waters. Best of all, Denmark admits it has paid her well; for her cities at once began to grow and thrive under free shipping, and, what was more important, her relations with her neighbors greatly improved. That was one time when the United States mixed in foreign politics. Nevertheless, the canal has been a fine investment for Sweden, opening up, as it does, a vast interior region rich in many products which now go to the warm waters of the North Sea by the canal.

Picturesque Cross-Country Trip

The first fifty miles up the canal out of Gothenburg one sails through a lovely agricultural valley along the Göta River. Broad fields of grain, and acre upon acre of cabbages, sugar-beets, turnips, and other root crops, are on each side. Every few miles is a little town—some plainly farm towns, with comfortable houses and shady streets. We pass right through them. The children line the canal, or wave to us from swings and playgrounds. A maid waves a kerchief to us from an upper-story window. Where the town lies on each side there are light steel bridges that roll back by electricity, to let our little boat through. Girls are in charge of all these bridges. A blast from our whistle, and the bridge-tender runs out of her little house, touches a button, waves a tiny flag to stop the traffic, and the bridge slides back just as we reach it.

Again we sail for miles through vast forests, mostly of pines planted in regular rows like an Iowa corn-field. They have a law in Sweden that, for every tree cut down, two must be planted. They have been selling us paper-pulp for fifty years, and have just as many trees as at first. Everyone gets off and strolls along the canal while the little steamer passes through two or three separate locks. At one series of seven, around some huge falls at Trollhättan, we take autos and carriages and drive for two hours, joining the boat ten miles up the mountain. Here is one of the largest power plants in Europe—170,000 horsepower, and all hard at work. We see a huge match factory, most of the output going to the United States.

At every stopping-place, girls swarm along the boat, offering berries of every kind for sale—ten cents a quart for strawberries, raspberries, and gooseber-

ries, the equal of which one seldom finds. The stewardess of the boat lays in huge supplies of them, which are dished out to us liberally at meal-times. Imagine a large bowl of such berries at each plate, accompanied by a big pitcher of pure Swedish cream! There was no limit—all the cream and berries we wanted. What a feast we did have!

As in Denmark, we found the Swedish horses to be splendid, big animals, well kept and gentle. Roans—red-and-blue—and sorrels seemed to predominate.

Match-Manufacture a Thriving Industry

Many of the towns were factory towns, and dozens of barges were met loaded with their products—matches, tiles, bricks, and, most of all, paper-pulp in great quantities. The canal gives them a cheap and direct outlet to the markets of the world. On top of the mountain the boat moves through two lakes—one, Lake Vener or Vänern, the largest in Europe outside of Russia. From these we go down-stairs again, lock by lock, through forests and farms, large cities and tiny villages. Often the canal is so narrow that we can reach the branches of the trees from the deck. The boat makes only about six or eight miles an hour, and in this leisurely way we study the country as we pass by.

Always there are girls milking the cows out in the field, no matter what the time of day. The soil is a rich black loam, and these Swedish farmers understand well the art of fertilizing and crop rotation. Our little boat is a sort of trolley-car for the country folks. The people get on and off at every town. We wonder how on earth the captain keeps track of them.

Many are bicycle tourists, with knapsacks on their backs—boys and girls from the colleges on a week-end vacation. A husky, healthy, rosy-faced lot of youngsters they are. One is a botanist. He shows me, with great pleasure, his plant-press filled with plants he has collected, many of which are our own familiar American species. The Swedes are great botanists. Linnaeus, the greatest and one of the first botanists, was a Swede, be it remembered.

At Lake Vadstena we spend two hours looking through a wonderful old castle built centuries ago as a Swedish outpost. Its rock walls are six or seven feet thick. The main banquet-hall is a room probably sixty feet square, with a ceiling forty feet above you. The floors are of pine logs, hewed smooth and laid side by side. It is full of all sorts of little nooks and corners, and, with a wide moat clear around it, answered our every idea as to what a genuine old castle should be. Heated only by fireplaces, those old Vikings must have been a hardy race. And, at that, it must have taken a whole herd of wood-choppers to keep the two immense fireplaces going during the feasts.

Country of Diversified Interests.

We found Sweden a country of diversified interests. Always we had an idea that it was chiefly a farm-and-forest proposition. But there are endless kinds of factories. Chief, of course, are the paper-and sawmills; then the great match factories, which utilize the cheaper timber. Many of the rivers were fairly choked with timber floating down the streams to the mills. In the larger cities are important pottery, steel, iron, and glassware factories. On the coast they have enormous shipbuilding plants. Motor-driven ships are Sweden's specialty. Naturally, these factories, with their thousands of men and women workers, furnish a ready market for the farmer's produce. The Swedes live well. They are great feeders, and one heard very little about any agricultural surplus.

Stockholm, with a growing population of over 700,000, is the wonder city of the North—broad streets, fine parks, a city hall that is one of the most attractive public buildings we have ever seen. The great banquet-hall is simply indescribably beautiful in its glorious coloring and simplicity of design. Lying, as the city does, with the Baltic in front and a great inland lake behind it, it is a regular Venice in its waterways.

Dalecarlia, lying north of Stockholm, is in the center of another prosperous region of farms, forests, and industrial plants. Here the Swedish people are closer in type to the olden days than anywhere in this region. In every other part of Scandinavia the men and women were dressed exactly as if it were in Cincinnati or Denver. In Hammerfest, for instance, the most northerly town in Europe, the young girls were dead images of the same long-legged, bare-armed flappers that you meet on F Street in Washington—as alike as two peas. In Dalecarlia, however, they have all—men and women, boys and girls—stuck to the picturesque old national costumes; and it was a joy to see them. The Swedes are an easy-going, pleasant race of people, very little spoiled by the spirit of industrialism and unrest. Any American could live among them and feel himself very much at home.

Lapps a Mongolian Race

Naturally, everyone asks about the Lapps. This odd race, showing strong Mongolian features, lives in the far northern part of Sweden. They are herdsmen, pure and simple, depending entirely on their reindeer for their living. Although they occupy a huge area, yet there are but seven or eight thousand of them. We were told that in 1928 they had 300,000 reindeer. Their country is badly overgrazed, and winter losses are not infrequent. Some years ago they lost nearly 50 per cent of their herds by winter starvation, fol-

lowed by a heavy mortality among the people themselves, who simply starved to death with their herds. We saw many of them in northern Norway, but belonging in Sweden, where they pay neither rent nor taxes. Due to overgrazing and lack of forage, they move a good many animals across the line into Norway, paying that government a grazing tax or fee of 75 cents an animal for the summer season. They work and ride the reindeer, and rope and handle them much as we do cattle on the western ranges. The Lapps are a degraded, undersized, bow-legged, sore-eyed race, far below the lowest of our American Indians. They live in round huts of logs covered with earth, very much like a Navajo Indian's *hogan* in Arizona. They are almost straight meat-eaters, and the infant mortality among them is exceedingly high. I think without exception they are the filthiest people on this globe. They never take off their clothes, day or night, and, from all appearances, seldom or never wash. Visitors to their camps are warned not to buy trinkets made of hide or cloth, such as clothing, dolls, etc., lest they contract disease, or, at the best, accumulate a fine crop of insects, with which the Lapps fairly swarm.

Taxes are high in Sweden, as in the other Scandinavian countries. They tell you it cost them as much to maintain their neutrality during the war as it did the fighting nations to fight—and they had no excitement to keep them up, either. However, the people we met seemed happy and contented. There is less unrest and discontent in Sweden than anywhere else we went. They seem satisfied to let the Danes do all the experimenting with new and radical measures. "If they develop anything worth while, we will copy it," remarked a Swede to us.

TRIM AND SELL

BY L. C. BRITE

Marfa, Texas

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE Federal Farm Board have sounded notes of warning to producers of the disastrous results that will likely follow overproduction of live stock and other agricultural products. Which means that the cattle industry must take care of itself to the extent of safeguarding against overproduction.

Our export trade has gone from us, with little hope of returning. As a consequence, overproduction means disaster as never before. Our present high cost of production renders export trade impossible. We cannot pay two to three dollars a day, with other expenses proportionate, and hope to compete with our foreign neighbors who pay fifty cents or less.

Charlie Collins is eminently correct in urging cattlemen to regulate production. The suggestion is a timely one. But, in the absence of organized effort through which production can be regulated, the process of control must necessarily rest with the individual.

Then it seems imperative that, instead of borrowing

money with which to increase his herd and acreage, the cowman strive to place his business on a "pay as you go" basis, and not be deluded by the term "easy money." Money that is "easiest" to get is often hardest to pay.

The fact is obvious that, in order to establish the "pay as you go" basis, it will be necessary to adopt the slogan "Trim and Sell." Following which, the problem automatically presents itself: How and where should we trim the herd to derive the greatest profit and benefit?

For several years I have been practicing a method of "trimming" my herd that has proved highly satisfactory and given good returns. To those who have not already used the plan, I am offering it for consideration. I work my range in the late winter or early spring, and gather and sell every cow and heifer that shows not to be carrying a calf; including also those considered doubtful. Any experienced cattleman can qualify as a diagnostician to the extent of judging if a cow is forward with calf.

This method has several distinct advantages: First, I get practically a 100 per cent calf crop; second, by converting the open cows into cash, I get immediate use of the money, instead of waiting eighteen months or longer for a return on the cow; third, shy breeders are eliminated from the herd; and, fourth, my grass is consumed by a profit-making investment, instead of holding over a lot of star boarders that yield nothing for a period of almost two years. Incidentally, I consider that the practice has added one dollar per acre to the value of my land.

After trimming out the open cows and heifers, my herd consists of cows nurturing calves, heifer calves and yearlings which I save to take the place of those sold, and my herd bulls; the total of which yields a reasonable return, without the expense of carrying a lot of dead timber. Open cows and heifers are always in demand to supply feeders or slaughterers.

My method is neither patented nor copyrighted, but is open to anyone who wishes to carry it out. I am cognizant of the fact that this is a wide country, and that what might prove profitable to one section might not be at all applicable to another. However, it seems that in any section the method could be used to advantage, to a degree at least.

The "pay as you go" policy has a psychological effect which is far-reaching. Your banker will extend you a more cordial handshake, and, when you order a bill of groceries, your grocer will ask, "Isn't there something else?" in a tone that carries with it genuine sincerity.

HERE, THERE, AND ELSEWHERE

BY JAMES E. POOLE

AMID ALL THIS PUBLICITY TURMOIL CONCERNING prosperity and its negation, adversity, it must be conceded that, since the crash last fall, liquidation of an unprecedented character has been in progress, and that the process has not yet run its course. It has been the headache that inevitably follows a debauch. Previous liquidation periods have been different in one respect, as several "babies" were involved, the chief of these being mechanical refrigeration, radio, and aviation. Inventory losses have been enormous in these and others. They were industrial and financial needs that grew too fast. Overfed, they succumbed to sickness overnight, while mature industries weathered the storm, although even the oldest and best-established trades were profoundly disturbed. Every period of liquidation necessitates the burial of a corpse, and such post-mortem rites are invari-

ably expensive. Any impression that shrinkage in security values was the only phase of the headache is erroneous.

* * *

The public is sated with reiteration of such statements as "the corner has been turned" and "bottom has been touched." Such repetition arouses skepticism, defeating its purpose. Business at the moment is in much the same position as was the steel industry at a time when Charles M. Schwab was asked concerning the outlook. "The industry is looking up," he replied, "for the reason that it is on its back and can look no other way." Certain aspects of the situation are encouraging; but until these influences—especially easy money—begin definitely to affect business conditions, prediction of immediate "prosperity," whatever that may be, is absurd.

* * *

Nothing has happened to affect the economic status of the country in a basic sense, but it has had a severe financial jolt—more severe, in fact, than most of us realized last fall. Corrective measures are now self-assertive, but arousing false expectations is to be decried. What this country needs as much as anything else is an economic policy by which alternate booms and "busts" may be avoided, as whenever industry slows down, purchasing power is contracted. This kicks back on every element, especially the great industrial army, which always muddles along "at the edge of the abyss," as Jack London once put it.

* * *

Whoever developed the theory that values may be "stabilized" by storing a commodity got off his trolley, in an economic sense. The plan might work if it were possible to suspend production of the commodity while such stabilization was tried out, but only in the case of a few products does such possibility exist. The steel trust may accomplish this by drawing fires, and agricultural-implement makers by laying off the gang, although such expedients are not usually resorted to until goods have accumulated and the market has become saturated. Joseph was the only man in history who could store grain with assurance of appreciated value, but he had the advantage of a divine revelation, enabling him to accumulate the surplus of seven fat against the deficiency of seven lean years. Unless this connection can be restored, control of food prices, under a system of continuous production, will be impossible, especially in view of the "ornery" disposition of mankind, prompting it to adopt a course the reverse of that suggested. No agrarian policy, in a national sense, that could be formulated would receive anything resembling majority approval.

* * *

Statisticians are queer ducks—ingenious, if unveracious. In a conference of business men recently the assertion was made that 600,000 men have been forced out of agriculture by changing economic conditions. Another in the party claimed that 900,000 had been displaced in the sphere of industry by labor-saving machinery and other agencies. "How have these men been absorbed?" demanded one of the "big guys" present of a patient, but resourceful statistician. "They constitute an addition to the ever-increasing army of salesmen," was the reply. "They are peddling washing-machines, radios, motor cars, bonds, and a score of other more or less salable things. How long they will survive is anybody's guess." The statistician, in this instance, failed to take cognizance of the army of solicitors facilitating distribution of a certain liquid commodity of illicit nature, the sale of which is reputed to be highly remunerative. Napoleon accused the English of being a nation of shopkeepers; Americans are degenerating into a mob of salesmen.

Getting a laugh at the expense of Congress is a trick with platform speakers. Nor is the administration immune. Newspaper columnists have the same penchant, realizing that thereby they tread on the toes of no one with "come-back" ability. A "wise crack" going the rounds at present concerns "prosperity blueprints" in alleged process of preparation at the national capital. Washington has taken the present industrial depression too seriously, as if assuming responsibility, which would be absurd. Had enactment of the tariff measure been facilitated, Congress would have done about all in its power to put the business of the country on an even keel. As it is, both branches are sadly discredited in public estimation. Indicative of this was the experience of a somewhat dry after-dinner speaker recently. Not having made a hit, he wound up with the suggestion that until Congress adjourned the prospect was unpromising. Whereupon the audience went into a frenzy of laughter, but not at him.

On a recent week-end motor jaunt through northern Indiana and Illinois, I made a point of asking country bankers their opinion of the most effective method of relieving an unsatisfactory agricultural situation, eliciting these among other answers: "Cease government interference with business." "Get farmers into an agreement not to buy a new car for another year. That would put millions in the banks, relieving local money stringency." "Close up the chain stores that send each day's receipts to the big financial centers, keeping the country bare of money." "Make present agricultural machinery equipment do service for a longer period. This could be done by taking better care of such property. Buying machinery, including tractors, is the bane of agriculture."

Better banking might be added to the list. Agricultural conditions have been partly to blame for bank failures, but crooked, incompetent, and otherwise undesirable custodians of the public's cash must be credited with much of the tribulation.

One banker, in a flourishing Illinois town, disclosed a phase of prevalent financial phenomena that seems inexplicable. A Chicago bond salesman, vending securities on over-capitalized buildings in that city, worked the community two years ago, cleaned up \$150,000, and vanished. Now the bond house has gone into receivership, and the bonds have depreciated 50 per cent. "And a bunch of farmers took their money out of my bank to give it to the Chicago sharp," added the banker resentfully. Far-away pastures are proverbially green.

If the United States mails could be relieved of the burden of advice to farmers carried over the country daily, expenses could be substantially reduced. Visiting a certain agricultural editor not long since, I noticed a table piled high with mimeographed and printed literature adjacent to his desk. "Every scrap of that stuff comprises federal, state, and organization emissions concerning some phase of agricultural production, economics, or politics," he said. "Not one-fiftieth of it is even scanned. I let it pile up for a short time to make an object-lesson. Some day a persevering statistician will measure the waste in tons, and estimate the resultant cost in dollars. If he shoots anywhere near the mark, he will produce an astounding set of figures."

Something "killed" beef trade recently. Retailers held up prices, for one thing; cheap lamb detracted from beef popularity, for another. With legs of lamb retailing at 30 cents, and a rib-roast out of an indifferent steer costing 50 cents, the buyer had no cause for indecision. Cattle-feeders

took the logical horn of the dilemma, stringing out the supply; otherwise fat cattle would have had an abrupt drop rather than a gradual decline. The ill-disguised fact is that price is a factor of major importance with consumers, and always will be.

Cattle-buyers at the markets have a new slogan, which is reiterated from day to day. "Take off a quarter" is the combination. Sometimes they do not get away with it, especially when they are under injunction to fill their order, but much of the time it has been a buyer's market; which means that the session is well advanced before any considerable percentage of the run moves scaleward. At that, the cattle-buyer enjoys no sinecure, walking the floor nights in anticipation of what the dressing-sheet on his previous day's purchase will reveal.

A sound reason for not buying cattle is that beef does not move freely through distributive channels. Contrary to general impression, killers are partial to cattle-purchasing. The average beef-house boss is never in better mood than when the commodity is moving promptly from the "hang" to the "sold" rail; but he throws a fit when the former gets cluttered up. A stock-yard buyer likes nothing better than a pocketful of urgent orders, as he can execute them promptly, go to the office, change his clothes, and hike to the golf course. But a healthy cattle market is impossible when beef does not move freely, which it never does when industry lags.

Congressmen from cattle-raising states who vote for free hides are merely fishing for votes. Their policy means that an industrial element in their constituencies approves of their position. Just how the aforesaid industrial element figures that free hides insure cheap shoes is beyond understanding, as there is no such thing. No industry is more prosperous than the shoemaking arm. If free hides were intended to benefit the tanning industry, the idea was wrong. All that has been accomplished is cheap raw material for shoemakers, from which shoe-wearers have derived little, if any, benefit.

NATIONAL BEEF CAMPAIGN

BY REDMAN S. DAVIS

Department of Publication, National Live Stock and Meat Board

THE NATIONAL BEEF CAMPAIGN IS MOVING FORWARD at top speed. Since the beginning of the new year, especially, has the program gathered momentum, with five cities on the itinerary for January, eight for February, and nine for March.

One of the first demonstrations of the year was given before the convention of the American National Live Stock Association at Denver, and since that time there have been many others. In St. Paul, Minnesota, two were given in answer to requests—the first before the Twin City Restaurant Association and the second before the convention of the Minnesota Retail Meat Dealers' Association. A Farmers' Week program at the University of Wisconsin featured a beef-cutting demonstration. The Hotel Association of Greater Detroit, the Cleveland Hotel Association, and innumerable groups of packers, retailers, etc., have witnessed the new cutting methods and pronounced them good.

A feature of special note in the current campaign is the program being carried on throughout the State of New York. Here the New York State College is taking the leading part. Professor R. B. Hinman, of the Animal Husbandry Depart-

ment, is in charge of local arrangements, and, judging from results, he has done an excellent job. The first city on the list was Ithaca, where a demonstration was given at the State College on February 14. Eleven other cities followed in rapid succession: Binghamton, February 17 to 19; Elmira, February 20 to 22; Buffalo, February 24 to March 1; Rochester, March 3 to 8; Geneva, March 10; Auburn, March 11; Syracuse, March 12 to 15; Ithaca, March 17 and 18; Utica, March 20 to 22; Albany, March 24 to 29; New York City, March 31 to April 8.

Professor Hinman is accompanying D. W. Hartzell, the beef-demonstration specialist, throughout the state. Everywhere they are being greeted with intense interest in the modern beef cuts on the part of the meat trade, educational institutions, and the consuming public, and their efforts are being accorded splendid support on all sides, from the packer and commission man down to the retailer.

To recount the activities in each of the cities in New York State, and others visited up to the present time, would be a long story. A few outstanding facts concerning one of them will serve to show what is going on in behalf of beef. In his report on the campaign in Buffalo, Mr. Hartzell says:

"Professor Hinman, Mr. G. E. Crean, local packer chairman, and myself first called on the schools, local retailers, etc., arranging meetings and enlisting the co-operation of the Farm Bureau, Home Bureau, the press, and local meat and live-stock interests. Mrs. Britt, of the Home Bureau, was already familiar with our cutting demonstrations and gave us valuable assistance. Mrs. Holebrook, of the Farm Bureau, arranged a meeting with the head of the Teachers' College, and also made appointments for us with the public schools. All teachers in the city were invited to attend the beef-cutting demonstration at Dold's Welfare Hall, Thursday evening, February 27. . . .

"Seven hundred thirty-five retailers of meat attended our three meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. The information Professor Hinman gave them regarding the State Agricultural College at Cornell was of intense interest to them, and it opened the way for the beef demonstration. The retailers and packers are certainly aroused, and report a definite reaction among retailers throughout the city. Many of them have completely revised their cutting methods, and there seems to be a better understanding generally of how best to serve the meat industry and the buying public as regards beef."

The attention being paid to the beef-demonstration work by the daily and weekly press must not be overlooked. In every city where the demonstration has been presented, extensive articles have appeared in the news columns of the local papers. Since Buffalo has been cited as an example, the following quotation from an article in the February 28 issue of the *Buffalo Evening News* will be of interest:

"The retail meat-dealer no longer should be content to remain a butcher. Instead he should become a combination of surgical expert and creative artist, and substitute deft probes with a surgeon's scalpel for the bludgeoning of a cleaver, and a frock coat for the besmeared butcher's apron. So Dwight W. Hartzell, meat-cutting expert for the National Live Stock and Meat Board, told assembled meat-dealers, packers, and live-stock men in Dold's Welfare Hall, 725 William Street, Thursday evening. The meeting, one of a series of similar state-wide gatherings, was held under the auspices of the Agricultural Department of Cornell University and the National Live Stock and Meat Board. . . . Mr. Hartzell operates with instruments and gadgets seldom seen in butcher shops. He uses a cleaver never, and a saw very seldom. But he has an assortment of knives, ranging from the approved butcher-shop size to some as small as a penknife. A small meat-hook is his constant companion, and he has also what is known as a 'larding-needle.' With this he inserts fat into portions of beef considered too lean.

"The retail meat business," he said, between making 'skirt patties' and removing an objectionable muscle from a rib roast, 'isn't what it used to be. Women no longer buy just so much meat. They insist that it be attractive.'"

THE KANSAS MEETING

A LARGER ATTENDANCE THAN AT ANY PREVIOUS meeting in recent years had gathered in Topeka on March 12-14, 1930, for the seventeenth annual convention of the Kansas Live Stock Association. Contributing to the interest manifested was the prospect of having the marketing program of the Federal Farm Board explained by Chairman Legge and Mr. Denman, whose speeches were followed with the keenest attention.

The first day was given over to committee meetings. At the opening session on March 13, Dr. C. W. McCampbell, Manhattan, stressed the importance of animal husbandry in our scheme of agriculture. J. C. Swift, of Kansas City, paid a tribute to departed members. President Will J. Miller next delivered his annual address, delving into the history of the association, sketching the unsolved problems still confronting the industry, and giving particular attention to the organization and policies of the Farm Board.

In the afternoon, Alexander Legge presented some of the difficulties with which the board has to deal. Agriculture, he said, is subject to the same laws as other basic pursuits, yet is the one industry in which producers act blindly. The only effective remedy for a chronic surplus is cutting down production. This, however, appears to be an unpopular doctrine. C. B. Denman followed, setting out the program of the National Live Stock Marketing Association, in course of formation, and expressing the conviction that through its influence we should in some degree be enabled to stabilize market conditions.

On the last day, W. Whitfield Woods, Chicago, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, spoke of the improved feeling animating the different branches of the industry, and mentioned the increased turn-over in cattle production, making it possible to market a much larger number of animals from a herd of a given size. F. M. Simpson, of Swift & Co., Chicago, told of the new process of frosting and packaging fresh meats. The work of the National Live Stock and Meat Board in counteracting advertising unfavorable to meat was discussed by R. C. Pollock, general manager of the board. Max O. Cullen, one of the board's experts, gave a demonstration of the new cutting methods.

Previously Secretary J. H. Mercer had submitted to the executive committee an exhaustive report of the activities of the association during the year just past, as well as an outline of present conditions in the industry.

The resolutions passed—

Demanded adequate increase of tariff on meat animals, meat, and meat products, and fair and just tariff on hides;

Asked that embargo on imports of live stock and meat products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease prevails be maintained;

Urged that Packers' Consent Decree be set aside;

Indorsed work of National Live Stock and Meat Board, advocated increase in its financial resources, and requested that all marketing agencies continue to co-operate in its support;

Approved activities of Kansas Sanitary Live Stock Department;

Favored repeal of section 15-a of Transportation Act and general reduction of transportation and marketing costs;

Authorized appointment of committee of five, to confer with Federal Farm Board and live-stock organizations with view to improving live-stock marketing.

These officers were elected for the coming year: Jesse C. Harper, Sitka, president; Frank Atkinson, Burdick, first vice-president; John Briggs, Protection, second vice-president; P. F. Eggen, Sedan, third vice-president; Chester W. Davis, Holton, fourth vice-president; and John H. Mercer, secretary.

CONVENTION OF TEXAS ASSOCIATION

THE TEXAS AND SOUTHWESTERN CATTLE RAISERS' Association—Nestor among live-stock organizations in the West—held its fifty-fourth annual convention in San Angelo on March 18-20, 1930. A significant program and a liberal round of entertainment contributed to make the meeting a pleasurable event for the large delegation from all the cattle-growing sections of the Lone Star and adjoining states who had gathered for the occasion.

The opening session was addressed by Governor Dan Moody, who paid a tribute to the cattleman as an individual citizen. T. D. Hobart, president of the association, reviewed the outstanding problems of the industry, dwelling particularly on the efforts being made to secure more favorable tariff legislation. Dayton Moses, attorney, in an exhaustive report told of what had been done by the association during the past year in protecting the interests of its members in the courts. Frank P. Holland, president of the Texas Breeder-Feeder Association, outlined the possibilities of finishing Texas cattle on feed grown in the state. R. C. Pollock, general manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, discussed the manifold activities of that organization, and D. W. Hartzell, meat-cutting expert, gave one of his famous demonstrations.

On the second day the stockmen listened to two representatives of the Federal Farm Board—James C. Stone and C. B. Denman. They made clear that the board could not be expected to cure all the ills of agriculture, but that nevertheless they regarded it as one of the most important steps ever taken by our government in the advancement of internal policies. Attention was called to the recently organized National Live Stock Marketing Association, and the suggestion was made that the cattlemen of Texas form their own co-operative association to become affiliated with the national organization.

Since December of last year a committee of five has been at work on just such a plan. The plan was presented to the convention in the form of a resolution, and adopted. It provides for the creation of the Texas Live Stock Marketing Association, to function under the Federal Farm Board. Members would bind themselves to sell all their live stock through the medium of this agency, except that they may dispose independently of stockers and feeders. On cattle thus sold independently they are to pay the association, for its maintenance, 25 cents a head, and on sheep 5 cents a head. If stock is sold by the producer himself for other purposes, without permission of the association, he is fined the sum of \$1 a head on cattle and 10 cents on sheep. A schedule of the number, age, and quality of the stock which they intend to market during the year is to be filed by producers with the association, which will collect the proceeds on all stock sold by it, deducting 1 per cent from the gross price on such as is not consigned to the terminal market. On stock sold at terminal markets the usual selling commissions are to be paid. A marketing information service, covering supply and demand conditions, as well as facts relating to price trends, is to be maintained for the benefit of producers, and files are to be kept of available pasture lands in Texas and adjoining states. For assistance in moving live stock to such pastures a charge of 50 cents a head on cattle and 10 cents on sheep will be made. Producers may withdraw from the association at any time by paying the commissions on live stock listed for sale, and after such withdrawal cannot rejoin within the period of a year.

A board of directors of twenty-four members was elected for the new organization, with H. L. Kokernot as temporary chairman and G. W. Barnes as temporary secretary. This

board will proceed to secure a charter, elect permanent officers, and adopt by-laws.

Other resolutions were passed as follows:

Favoring modification of Packers' Consent Decree, and directing president of association to intervene in behalf of defendants if occasion should arise;

Recommending taxing of all natural resources within state on equitable basis, and opposing imposition of state income tax;

Urging appropriation by legislature to effect eradication of cattle tick from state;

Appealing to legislature to raise additional revenue by passage of law for sale of state water;

Encouraging Boys' and Girls' Baby Beef and Lamb Clubs; Requesting legislature to appropriate \$30,000 as revolving fund for Texas agricultural experiment stations for purpose of determining feeding value of Texas-raised feed;

Thanking senators and representatives in Congress who supported increase in duties on live stock and its products, and urging reconsideration of Oddie amendment for tariff on hides;

Protesting against Box bill for restriction of Mexican immigration;

Appreciating benefit to producers from establishment of government grading and stamping of beef, and urging appropriation for extension of this service to additional markets;

Reiterating request that United States army and navy be supplied at all times with home-grown beef;

Extending sympathy to families of deceased members.

All officers were re-elected for the coming year: T. D. Hobart, Pampa, president; J. M. West, Houston, first vice-president; C. C. Slaughter, Dallas, second vice-president; W. E. Connell, Fort Worth, treasurer; E. B. Spiller, Fort Worth, secretary and general manager; Tad Moses, Fort Worth, assistant secretary; Dayton Moses, Fort Worth, attorney.

The fifty-fifth annual convention will be held in Corpus Christi in March, 1931, at a date to be determined later.

NEW MEXICO CATTLEMEN MEET

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, held in Albuquerque March 25 and 26, was a well-attended and very successful meeting. Among the speakers was C. B. Denman, whose account of the ways in which the Federal Farm Board can help the stockman was listened to with much interest. Many other individuals prominent in the affairs of the live-stock world were on the program.

After the preliminaries, President T. A. Spencer presented his annual review of conditions in the industry and the present status of the association. Mr. Denman then gave his talk on "What the Federal Farm Board Can Do for the Live-Stock Industry." "Financing Stockmen" was the subject of Kenneth D. Oliver, field manager of the Pacific National Agricultural Credit Corporation. F. M. Simpson, of Swift & Co., discussed "New Methods of Merchandising Fresh Meats."

On the second day, F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, opened the program with an address on "The Tariff Fight and What It Teaches Us." He was followed by Dr. H. L. Kent, president of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, who spoke on "The Part the Agriculture College Can Play toward Bettering the Live-Stock Industry." "Status of Public-Land Matters" was the topic of O. M. Lee, chairman of the public-land committee of the association. D. A. Shoemaker, of the Forest Service, presented a paper on "Management of Game and Game Ranges on National Forests." Under the titles "Sir Loin of T-Bone Steak" and "The Ox Warble," Dr. F. L. Schneider, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, showed a set of stereopticon pictures.

In the afternoon, John Fields, president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank at Wichita, explained "The Relation of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank to the Live-Stock Industry." A. D. Crile, commissioner of public lands, discussed "State Land Problems." Outside of the regular program, several other gentlemen had the floor, among them Prager Miller, field representative of the Farm Board.

The resolutions covered the principal problems, national and state, confronting the live-stock industry at the present time. A summary follows:

Regretting that many senators from western states failed in their duty to their constituents by voting against duty on hides, urging that no compromise be made with House, and pointing out importance of Senate schedules on live cattle prevailing in conference;

Recommending that Congress make provision for work of President's Commission for Administration and Conservation of Public Domain; that, immediately upon commission reporting, suitable legislation be enacted for ceding lands to states; and that no further entries be permitted pending such report;

Asking that no further lands be allotted to Indians of state, except on condition that lands be subject to taxation;

Commending efforts of Federal Farm Board to provide relief for agriculture;

Requesting Congress to appropriate funds for extension of beef-grading service;

Indorsing recommendation of American National Live Stock Association for increased revenues for National Live Stock and Meat Board;

Protesting against attempt to apply quota restrictions to Mexican immigrants;

Favoring modification of Consent Decree to allow packers to retail meats and allied food products;

Requesting Secretary of Agriculture to confine future reports on agricultural outlook to statements of production and consumption;

Asking that owners of cattle having been taken over by War Finance Corporation in 1924 be reimbursed for resultant losses from profits made by corporation;

Indorsing work of Biological Survey in control of predatory animals and injurious rodents, and urging increase of appropriation for continuance of this work;

Suggesting that welfare of live-stock interests be kept more prominently in view in preservation of wild life of state;

Protesting against proposed increase in freight rates on hides shipped from El Paso and points in New Mexico to Kansas City and St. Louis;

Expressing hope for early recovery of Victor Culberson, president of American National Live Stock Association.

The following officers were elected: President, R. H. Royall, Tyrone; vice-presidents, Albert K. Mitchell, Albert; E. T. Springer, Cimarron; R. C. Sowder, Carrizozo; and Lee S. Evans, Marquez. Miss Bertha Benson, Albuquerque, continues as secretary.

Next year's convention will be held at Las Vegas.

INTERSTATE FEEDERS TO MEET AT LINCOLN

A MEETING OF THE INTERSTATE LIVE STOCK Feeders' and Producers' Association will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, April 17—the day prior to the Annual Live Stock Feeders' Day. This association, launched a year ago at Omaha, has a membership composed of feeders and breeders in many of the Corn Belt states. Its object is the consideration of problems of mutual interest and the general promotion of the welfare of the live-stock industry in this region. There is a big field for just such an organization here, and under the energetic leadership of Harry Hopley, of Iowa, its president, much has already been accomplished.

On the program for this meeting are the adoption of a constitution and by-laws, the election of permanent officers, pos-

sibly the appointment of a representative on the National Live Stock and Meat Board, and transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL

BELIEVING THAT MANY PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL co-operatives are common to all farm organizations engaged in business, representatives from ten agricultural commodity groups, after several preliminary meetings, have organized the National Co-operative Council, with headquarters at Washington, D. C. The object of the council is stated to be "to promote the interests of co-operative business organizations of farmers in the United States by serving as a medium for developing bonds of friendship, understanding, and mutual helpfulness among farm co-operatives, and for formulating policies of common concern affecting agricultural co-operation."

C. O. Moser, vice-president of the American Cotton Co-operative Association, is president of the new organization. Paul S. Armstrong, secretary of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, and Henry Hartke, president of the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, are vice-presidents. Robin Hood, of Washington, D. C., is acting as temporary secretary. No extensive program of activity is contemplated until after the second annual meeting, which will be held in Columbus, Ohio, in July, when incorporation will be effected and membership divisions set up.

Membership in the council is held by farmers' co-operative business organizations. State co-operative councils may become associate members. The live-stock industry is represented by the Western Cattle Marketing Association, San Francisco, California, and the wool interests by the Pacific Co-operative Wool Growers, Portland, Oregon.

CATTLE NOT TO BE TWICE ASSESSED

SETTLEMENT OF A CONTROVERSY OF LONG standing between Texas cattlemen and Kansas state authorities now seems assured. A bill has been passed by the special session of the Kansas legislature, exempting cattle shipped into Kansas for summer pasture from taxation, provided evidence is furnished that such cattle have already been assessed in their home state.

Heretofore cattle sent to Kansas pastures from Texas have been taxed in both states, over the protest of Texas breeders.

WYOMING FOREST-USERS AT LIBERTY TO CHOOSE KIND OF STOCK TO BE GRAZED

CATTLEMEN ON THE BRIDGER NATIONAL FOREST in Wyoming may switch to sheep, if they like, without losing their grazing rights, according to a ruling by the Secretary of Agriculture rendered last month.

For many years cattlemen grazing their stock on the Bridger National Forest have successfully excluded sheep from certain areas claimed by them, through priority of use, to have become exclusively cattle territory. In 1926 a number of cattlemen disposed of their herds with the intention of going into the sheep business, and asked for permission to substitute sheep on the forest pastures used by them. This was opposed by the remaining cattlemen, and the matter has been debated back and forth ever since.

The ruling, setting the controversy at rest, is an important one for the stockmen immediately concerned, but, from what we can learn, establishes no precedent with respect to other forests. It has been the policy of the department in the past to decide each case of this nature on its individual merits, and this principle will be adhered to in the future. The decision in the Bridger case was based on the presumption that the sheep would not interfere with the cattle, grazing largely on different areas.

WHERE WYOMING STANDS ON PUBLIC LANDS

A STATEMENT OF WYOMING'S POSITION ON THE public-land question has been drafted by P. W. Jenkins, of Big Piney, member of the Commission on Conservation and Administration of the Public Domain, for presentation to President Hoover. What Wyoming wants, according to Mr. Jenkins, may be summarized under these eleven heads:

1. Passage to the state of complete title, from the surface down, to all the unappropriated and unreserved public domain within its boundaries.
2. Title to the reserved mineral lands of the state, but with the stipulation that the federal government is to receive the same royalties as at present, to be expended for the same purposes.
3. Ultimate state administration of the national forests.
4. Passage under state jurisdiction of Indian reservations as fast as they are allotted to individuals or thrown open for settlement.
5. Creation of no new national parks, and no additions to existing ones, without the consent of the state legislature.
6. Passage of stock driveway reservations under control of the state.
7. Administration and control by the state of its waters, particularly of streams having their sources in Wyoming.
8. Ultimate use of mineral royalty funds by the state for reclamation purposes.
9. Continued federal control of military and maneuver grounds.
10. State control of federal highways after the ten-year program has been completed.
11. Direction of flood control by the federal government.

WHAT IS A CALF?

IF THIS QUESTION WERE ASKED OF A RANGE cattleman, the reply would probably be that a calf is "any bovine animal under a year of age." This description would apply whether the animal was one day or ten months old, whether it weighed 75 or 500 pounds, or whether it was getting its first sip of milk from its mother or had been feeding on grass for half a year. But, moving over into the public stockyards, we find both buyers and sellers making sharp distinctions in their terminology. Instead of the single word "calf," we hear men talking about "veals," "vealers," "veal calves," "calves," "range calves," "dairy calves," "grass calves," "stocker calves," "feeder calves," "rannies," "ranahans," etc. Furthermore, the animals usually are sorted into different lots, go to different buyers, and bring vastly different prices.

In a recent radio talk, C. E. Gibbons, marketing specialist of the Department of Agriculture, went into this confusion of tongues and attempted to bring some order out of chaos. Some years ago, said Mr. Gibbons, when the Bureau of Agricultural Economics undertook to report live-stock and wholesale dressed-meat markets, it was soon discovered that the varying terminology extended into the meat field, where the word "veal" was given a number of widely differing interpretations. In view of the fact that, in animals intended for immediate slaughter, the meat provides the real standard for

judgment, a careful study was, therefore, first made of the carcasses of young bovine animals. Some of these were discovered to be skinned, providing what the trade knows as "calf" carcasses, while others were left with the hides on, furnishing the market with "vealers."

"It was found that these carcasses varied widely in essential respects. Some of them were very light—almost white—in color. The bones were soft, red, and cartilaginous. There was only a thin covering of external fat, and the lean meat was very smooth and fine-grained. Others were much darker in color, approaching the red color of beef. Bones were harder and whiter. Frequently the fat was more abundant and firmer in character. The texture or fiber of the lean meat was coarser. It was usually found that the two kinds of carcasses sold at entirely different prices. In view of these considerations, it obviously was confusing and seemed unwise to call them all 'veal.' It was decided, therefore, to divide the carcasses into two groups, and call one group 'veal' and the other 'calf' carcasses."

"That done, the investigation shifted over to the stockyards and a consideration of the live animals. Here a wholly similar situation prevailed. There were animals three weeks old, which had run with their mothers from birth, and carried all the bloom and baby fat which result from a whole-milk diet. There were others six months old, which had run on pasture and stubble-fields for months, and showed all the familiar effects of age, exercise, and rough feed. By every rule of reason, it seemed improper to call all these animals by the same name. Consequently they were divided into two groups. The name 'vealer' was applied to one, and 'calf' to the other. To set up standards for the two groups, we simply laid down the rule that a vealer must produce veal, and a calf must produce a calf carcass or calf meat."

In conclusion, then, according to Mr. Gibbons' summary, a "vealer" is an immature, milk-fed bovine animal, usually not over three months of age, while a "calf" is an immature bovine animal which for a considerable time has subsisted, in part or wholly, on feeds other than milk.

WOOL PRODUCTION

REVISED ESTIMATES OF SHORN-WOOL PRODUCTION in seventeen western states for the year 1929, as compared with 1928, present the following figures (in pounds):

	1929	1928
Arizona	6,120,000	5,760,000
California	25,636,000	23,800,000
Colorado	9,979,000	9,956,000
Idaho	17,829,000	17,885,000
Kansas	2,394,000	2,442,000
Montana	28,733,000	26,626,000
Nebraska	2,850,000	2,370,000
Nevada	7,423,000	8,580,000
New Mexico	14,600,000	13,683,000
North Dakota	4,649,000	3,984,000
Oklahoma	942,000	615,000
Oregon	18,849,000	20,332,000
South Dakota	6,352,000	6,009,000
Texas	41,300,000	38,200,000
Utah	19,011,000	22,072,000
Washington	5,040,000	5,270,000
Wyoming	26,000,000	26,488,000
Total United States.....	308,947,000	303,715,000

Of pulled wool, 54,500,000 pounds were produced in 1929, compared with 51,900,000 pounds in 1928; making grand totals of 363,447,000 and 355,615,000 pounds, respectively, for the two years. Average weight was 7.6 pounds in 1929 and 7.8 pounds in 1928.

Wool production (in the grease) in the principal wool-growing countries of the world for 1929, with averages for

the three-year period 1926-28, is estimated as below, rounded off into even millions:

	1929	3-Year Av. 1926-28
United States	363,000,000	331,000,000
Australia	925,000,000	921,000,000
New Zealand	255,000,000	223,000,000
Argentina	324,000,000	346,000,000
Uruguay	150,000,000	133,000,000
Union of South Africa	302,000,000	268,000,000
Russia	397,000,000	368,000,000
Europe outside of Russia	336,000,000	348,000,000
Totals	3,052,000,000	2,938,000,000

INCREASE IN CROP ACREAGE

REPORTS FROM 50,000 FARMS, AS TABULATED BY the Department of Agriculture, indicate an intention to plant 3.7 per cent less spring wheat than in 1929. On the other hand, corn figures with an increase in acreage of 2.8 per cent, oats with 2.5, barley with 1.7, grain sorghums with 8.2, and potatoes with 3.4 per cent. Total acreage of the principal crops, exclusive of cotton, according to these intention forecasts, promises to be about 2 per cent above that of a year ago.

SOME MEAT STATISTICS

PRODUCTION OF FEDERALLY INSPECTED MEATS, exports, and imports for the year 1929, as estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, are given as below, together with figures for 1928, 1913, and 1900 for comparison (in millions of pounds):

	Beef and Veal	Mutton and Lamb	Pork and Lard
Production—			
1929	4,728	545	8,430
1928	4,725	523	7,819
1913	3,739	568	4,964
1900	2,974	274	3,549
Exports—			
1929	16	0.8	1,192
1928	24	2	1,135
1913	45	5	1,049
1900	438	1	1,462
Imports—			
1929	142	5	9
1928	129	3	11
1913	35	.....	1
1900 .....	.....	.....	.....

Per-capita consumption, likewise of federally inspected meats only, according to the same authority was as follows (in pounds):

	1929	1928
Beef and veal.....	39.94	40.11
Mutton and lamb.....	4.53	4.36
Pork (including lard).....	60.13	61.08
Totals	104.60	105.55

We shall now await definite consumption data, when the state and municipally inspected slaughter and the farm slaughter has been computed. Federally inspected meat production of late years has constituted about two-thirds of the total.

As showing the progress of government grading and stamping of beef, the following table is of interest. There has been some doubt expressed concerning the success of this plan. From the figures it would appear that there has been a steady, even though slow and intermittent, advance in the amount of beef thus handled. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics

states that the demand for the service now is so great that the bureau is unable to comply with all requests:

	1929	1928
January	2,108,516	1,520,750
February	1,796,105	2,093,300
March	2,491,948	3,555,200
April	3,281,399	3,075,050
May	4,166,039	4,049,100
June	3,868,967	5,201,350
July	4,353,332	2,622,801
August	3,986,326	2,993,515
September	3,492,835	2,995,254
October	3,841,910	2,279,259
November	3,385,941	1,933,087
December	3,477,860	1,882,801
Totals	40,251,178	34,201,467

Since August 1, 1929, the National Live Stock and Meat Board has been co-operating in this work, which from July, 1928, has been on a fee basis, being paid for at the rate of \$2 an hour by the applicant for the service. At present the three top grades—"prime," "choice," and "good"—are graded and stamped upon request, and the service is available at nine cities. An appropriation is being sought from Congress to extend the service, and the sum of \$20,000 has been recommended for this purpose by the Bureau of the Budget.

In addition to the above, several of the larger packers are privately grading and stamping increasing quantities of beef, sent out under their own brands.

OUR DAIRY CATTLE

OF THE 33,000,000 OR SO DAIRY CATTLE OF ALL ages found in the United States on January 1, 1929, according to estimates by the Department of Agriculture, about 1,000,000, or 3 per cent, were purebred and represented the six breeds of Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Dutch Belted, Guernsey, Holstein-Friesian, and Jersey. Numbers of these breeds, including purebreds and grades, on January 1, 1920, together with record milk and butterfat production, are given as below in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1443, "Dairy Cattle Breeds," by Amer B. Nystrom, senior dairy husbandman, Bureau of Animal Industry, just issued:

	No. Jan. 1, 1920	Milk Record (lbs.)	Butterfat Record (lbs.)
Holstein-Friesian	11,069,000	37,381	1,286
Jersey	9,554,000	23,677	1,198
Guernsey	1,993,000	24,008	1,113
Ayrshire	412,000	23,329	956
Brown Swiss	170,000	27,514	1,106
Dutch Belted	157,000	17,268	780

THE CALENDAR

April 17, 1930—Business Meeting of Interstate Live Stock Feeders' and Producers' Association, Lincoln, Neb.
May 19-21, 1930—California Ram Sale, Sacramento, Cal.
May 23-24, 1930—Annual Convention of Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon, Klamath Falls, Ore.
May 27-28, 1930—Annual Convention of Montana Stock Growers' Association, Lewistown, Mont.
June 12-14, 1930—Annual Convention of Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, Chadron, Neb.
July 30-August 2, 1930—Annual Convention of Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association, Brady, Tex.
August 25-28, 1930—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
September 8-20, 1930—International Conference on Agriculture, Forestry, and Animal Industry, Washington, D. C.
September 18-21, 1930—Nevada State Live Stock Show, Elko, Nev.

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Volume XI

APRIL, 1930

Number 11

TARIFF PROSPECTS

WITH THE SENDING OF THE TARIFF bill to conference, cattlemen will be interested in knowing the present situation with respect to rates affecting their products. The following table compares such rates as contained in the existing law, the House bill, and the Senate bill:

	Present Law	House Bill	Senate Bill
Cattle—			
Over 1,050 lbs.....	2 c. lb.	.....	.....
Under 1,050 lbs.....	1½ c. lb.	.....	.....
Over 800 lbs.....	.....	2½ c. lb.	.....
Under 800 lbs.....	.....	2 c. lb.	.....
Over 700 lbs.....	.....	.....	3 c. lb.
Under 700 lbs.....	.....	.....	2½ c. lb.
Dressed beef.....	3 c. lb.	6 c. lb.	6 c. lb.
Canned meats.....	20% ad val. (about 2½ c. lb.)	6 c. lb. (Min. 20% ad val.)	6 c. lb. (Min. 20% ad val.)
Hides.....	Free list	10% ad val.	Free list

The Senate increase in the duty on live cattle carried by a vote of 72 to 4, and it is the consensus of opinion that the Senate rates and the division weight of 700 pounds should easily prevail in conference. This amendment was introduced by Senator Connally, of Texas. It is to be regretted that he did not add to his glory by voting for the Oddie amendment, as did his colleague, Senator Sheppard.

The dressed-beef and canned-meat schedules are

the same in both the House and the Senate bills, and are therefore not subject to the action of the conference committee. The minimum of 20 per cent ad valorem on canned meats carried in the pending bill will be effective on only a limited amount of high-priced canned meats. On ordinary corned beef, which is the principal item imported, the rate will be 6 cents a pound.

The loss of the revised Oddie amendment on the hide schedule by only one vote is cause for the keenest disappointment. It is impossible to give an account of the long struggle in the brief space available here. The division of opinion between senators from the range states and those from the Corn Belt, not reconciled until just before the final vote was taken, coupled with the vicious attacks made on the amendment by Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts, and Senator Blaine, of Wisconsin, seems to be responsible for the defeat. These latter senators, while pretending to be much concerned about the welfare of the farmer, voted to reduce the hide duty from 4 cents a pound to 10 per cent ad valorem, and at every stage of the game showed an utter disregard for the farmer's welfare. Nevertheless, they took advantage of the split in the producers' ranks, and so magnified the effect of a duty on the price of shoes that the senators from cattle-producing states failed to take a united stand on the final vote.

It is difficult to understand the action of Senator Borah in switching his vote after victory was in sight, and that of the other western senators who voted against the revised Oddie amendment.

It is now indicated that the leather and shoe industries will make a strong effort to get the House amendment adopted in conference. That would be adding insult to injury, as the 10 per cent duty on hides would be of negligible benefit to producers, and was originally inserted in the House bill only as an excuse for putting substantial duties on leather and shoes. Unless a separate vote can be forced in the House, and the revised Oddie amendment substituted for the present House amendment, THE PRODUCER urges all friends of the cattleman to insist that hides, leather, and shoes remain on the free list. If the House rate is left in the bill as finally passed, we prophesy that senators responsible for the defeat of the Oddie amendment will ere long themselves regret this action.

The rates allowed the leather and shoe industries in the revised Oddie amendment were very low, and those eastern senators anxious to help the distressed leather industry are to be commended for the fight they put up side by side with representatives of the cattle country. We shall never have a better opportunity to get a tariff on hides.

The tariff bill also contains a provision requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to notify the Secretary of the Treasury whenever foot-and-mouth disease is known to exist in any foreign country, and it then becomes mandatory for the latter to prohibit the importation from such country of dressed meats and live animals of the bovine species, the embargo to remain in effect so long as the disease exists. This is of extreme importance to cattlemen, as it removes this question from the realm of international or local political influence.

It is expected that the conference committee will require at least a month to adjust the differences. This would put off the date for the final enactment of the bill until some time in May.

THEORY VS. PRACTICE

AS THIS IS BEING WRITTEN, THE SENATE is winding up the longest and hardest tariff struggle on record. While agriculture has made some gains, and while the "coalition" succeeded in holding down industrial rates to some extent before losing control of the bill, much more could have been accomplished if coalitionists had forgotten some of their fine theories and stood together for the protection of every worth-while unit of the agricultural and allied industries. They would only have continued the practice so long successfully followed by the East in the art of tariff-making.

At first they held together fairly well in fighting against radical increases in industrial schedules, but went to pieces through failure to agree on rates for certain agricultural and other commodities in which their members were especially interested. They lacked the cohesion that comes with party organization. In addition, while in debate they undoubtedly excelled the "Old Guard," their leading men were individualists, not in the habit of making sacrifices for the common good.

It is quite probable that a tariff bill written along the conservative lines advocated by this faction would be of more lasting benefit to the country than the one which has now gone into conference. But whenever one group of men working as a unit enter into contest with another group working largely individually, no matter how capable these latter individuals may be, the result is never long in doubt. And so the "Old Guard" emerges the victor.

No doubt business unrest and the unemployment situation contributed to the defeat of the "coalition," but in the main it overreached itself. Coalitionists got so in the habit of voting "no" that they applied this rule to every item, industrial or agricultural, which did not happen to concern them individually,

or which they thought would not benefit all of our six million farmers.

Much can be accomplished through negative or indirect action, but such can never wholly take the place of direct action. When the next tariff bill is written, it is to be hoped the representatives from the South and West will combine with their attack on unreasonably high industrial schedules an aggressive stand for adequate protection to every substantial element among their own producers. If they can do that, a reasonable measure of success is sure to be theirs, and this year's efforts will not have been wholly in vain.

A NEW ERA IN CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING

THE ANNOUNCEMENT, A MONTH AGO, that the Federal Farm Board was ready to assist in the formation of a National Live Stock Marketing Association—to be handled, of course, along strictly co-operative lines—freshens interest in what has been a live subject for years.

With the exception of the Western Cattle Marketing Association in California, co-operative marketing associations have largely developed at the central markets during the same period that direct marketing has come into vogue. As a matter of fact, both systems were the outgrowth of many years' discontent with conditions prevailing at the central markets, and of the realization that direct marketing offered, in some instances at least, an economic saving, both in market expense and in shrinkages.

While competition between old-line commission firms and co-operatives has been very keen, they have largely stood together in fighting direct marketing, because of their mutual desire to swell commission accounts. In so doing, THE PRODUCER feels that the co-operatives have taken the short view of the matter, and that the ultimate welfare of their farmer members is of greater concern than large commission profits.

THE PRODUCER is a firm believer in a dual marketing system—one to act as a check on the other. We cannot conceive of doing away with the great central markets, nor can we forget the unsatisfactory conditions that were often present before direct marketing became an important factor.

The tactics of market agencies in blaming every drop in the hog market on direct marketing, and keeping mum when the market is advancing, are hitting just a little below the belt. We believe every producer should be allowed, without let or hindrance, to decide how to market his stock, and that unfair propaganda should be discontinued.

We trust that, under the new order of things, the

co-operatives will rise above the matter of self-interest and work for the good of the whole industry. In the commission-rate hearings which will follow the Supreme Court decision in the Omaha case they should take a stand for fair and reasonable commissions, and not work for a high rate in order to make a fat refund. In the stock-yard hearings, now being held at various markets, they should take the same position—namely, for fair and reasonable rates—and not be influenced by fear or favor in the matter of treatment at the hands of the yards companies.

The decline in the financing of producers by old-line commission firms, coincident with the formation of the Federal Farm Board, empowered to assist in the establishment of credit corporations, offers a wonderful opportunity to the co-operative agencies. The extent to which they profit by it will depend largely on the attitude they take on the major problems confronting the industry today.

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK REPORT

SINCE THE ISSUANCE OF THE REPORT ON the "Agricultural Outlook for 1930," late in January, there has been a growing wave of resentment in live-stock circles, similar to that aroused in the South following the publication of a statement on September 15, 1927, predicting lower cotton prices.

The activities of the federal government in behalf of the farmer have been constantly expanding. Many of the services which have been started in recent years, viewed with distrust at first, have later come to be fully recognized by those only a short time before most outspoken in their criticism. During the year-long debate on the tariff bill now pending, almost constant reference was made to statistical information furnished by one department or other of the government. We all find ourselves depending upon such information. But the growing predilection, in recent years, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to indulge in price-forecasting has met with little favor generally.

There may be room for argument as to whether the 1930 report, with its prediction that "the general average of cattle prices in 1930 is *likely* to be *slightly* lower than that of 1929," or that, "*if* the present number of breeding ewes in the United States is maintained, and all sheep and lambs are sold each year except enough to maintain such a number, inspected slaughter during the next few years will *probably* exceed that of the crop-marketing year 1929-30 by *around* 2,000,000 head," is responsible for any part of the recent break in live-stock prices,

but who will argue that such statements are of any value? Hedged completely round with qualifying phrases, to provide an alibi in case the prophecy fails of fulfilment, and with such terms as "if," "likely," "may," and "probably" badly overworked, these statements have little appeal to the one who seeks facts.

It is well known that the big packers, with the many channels of information available to them, often "guess" wrong on the trend of the market. The batting average of anyone attempting to predict price trends is not going to be very high. When right, little credit is given them; when wrong, they never hear the last of it. That is only human nature, working 100 per cent.

The important thing is to see that all available facts as to acreage to be planted, animals to be bred, actual production, etc., be furnished as promptly as possible. Then let each producer guess for himself as to what is going to happen. If he hits it wrong, he will grin and bear it. If he hits it right, his confidence in himself and his bank account will expand at the same time.

In the case of cotton, referred to above, a bill was passed prohibiting the forecasting, not only of price trends, but also of probable acreage to be planted. No statement concerning cotton is issued until July 1, when actual acreage planted in all crops is made known. The restriction goes farther than many cotton-producers could wish. The same thing may happen in live stock, unless the Secretary of Agriculture announces that the practice of predicting price trends will be discontinued. That part of the service which is of really vital importance to the industry should not be crippled by a stubborn insistence on tying to it something of doubtful value which may bring forth further restrictive legislation.

COMPARISONS

IN THE FEBRUARY "PRODUCER" REFERENCE was made to the number of cattle on farms and ranches as of January 1, 1930, the total figure being 57,967,000—an increase for the year of 2.7 per cent. However, two-thirds of this increase was in dairy cattle, while the beef-cattle increase was not in far-western territory. In fact, the eleven far-western states show a decrease of practically 1 per cent in all cattle.

A recent issue of the *News-Bulletin*, edited by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., estimates the population of the United States on July 1, 1928, at 119,306,000, compared with 117,843,000 a year earlier and 116,380,000 two years earlier.

The table shown elsewhere in this issue indicates that per-capita consumption of federally inspected

beef and veal for 1929 was 39.94 pounds, compared with 40.11 in 1928; of pork, including lard (except cutting fats), 60.13 pounds, compared with 61.08 in 1928; and of lamb and mutton, 4.53 pounds, compared with 4.36 in 1928.

Cattle-raisers should keep their ear to the ground, and do everything in their power to prevent a disastrous price-break in the next few years, such as that which struck lamb-feeders this winter. With the slightly lower level of prices now obtaining, it should be possible to shove the per-capita consumption of beef and veal back over the forty-pound mark. Our population is constantly growing. The market for beef does not have to be created—it is already there and waiting. Cut out superfluous middleman costs, and make it possible for people to buy beef at reasonable prices. In the meantime, do not increase production any faster than the demand, in connection with a satisfactory level of prices, warrants.

James T. Craig

Following a serious operation at the hospital of the Mayo Brothers, James T. Craig, of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, died in Rochester, Minnesota, on March 14. Mr. Craig was born sixty-seven years ago in Berwickshire, southern Scotland, on a farm which belonged to the father of John Clay. Coming to the United States in 1884, he entered the employ of the latter and was sent to Wyoming. Here and in western South Dakota, successively as "cow-hand" and manager of ranch properties, he earned his spurs as one of the upbuilders of this territory, being a participant in many of the picturesque episodes of the early days. He was known to hosts of people throughout the western country. For many years he was president of the Western South Dakota Stock Growers' Association. At the time of his death he was at the head of the banking interests of John Clay at Belle Fourche, and was a director of the Swan Land and Cattle Company.

Ed C. Lasater

One of the best-known cattlemen of Texas passed away on March 20, when Ed C. Lasater died at his home in San Antonio, seventy years old. In earlier days Mr. Lasater had the reputation of being one of the largest breeders of beef cattle in the United States, his ranch in Falfurrias, Starr County, having at times as many as thirty thousand head on it. These he shipped to the Kansas City market by the train-load, all of the same age and selling at the same price. He was also one of the first to experiment with the in-

troduction of the Brahman breed. Later he transferred his affections to the dairy type of animal. His herd of Jerseys was reputed to be one of the finest in the world, winning prizes at many shows. His great cattle-barns and extensive pastures became one of the show places of the state. Until a few years ago Mr. Lasater was active in organization affairs. For a long time he was a member of the executive committee of the American National Live Stock Association.

FAVORS THIRTEEN-MONTH YEAR AND METRIC SYSTEM

KIT CARSON, COLO., March 12, 1930.

TO THE PRODUCER:

This proposition of changing the calendar to thirteen months no doubt would be an advantage in many ways. But what about our superstitious people? I suppose there would be considerable objection to the figure thirteen. As for myself, the only time I could be superstitious of a party of thirteen would be in case there would be a jug of genuine old Scotch whisky to be consumed. I should prefer to have the party consist of only eight or ten.

While we are talking of reform, I have been wondering for years why someone has not brought up the proposition of doing away with the bushel in the sale and handling of grain. There is not one bushel in a million that is ever sold by actual measure. All grains are weighed, and go by standard weight. In figuring out all these weights, and the bushels into the amount, there is no doubt thousands and thousands of dollars' worth of time wasted. It would be just as easy to sell or buy grain, or any commodity, by the hundred pounds, or by the ton, as to deal in it by the bushel.

I understand that in some parts of the United States even corn is dealt in by the barrel. Also frequently we see market quotations of flour, pork, and cement quoted by the barrel. I am seventy-two years old, have been in the United States about fifty years, and I do not remember ever seeing a barrel of pork, flour, or cement handled in trade.

One of the biggest improvements that could be adopted in the United States would be the metric system of weights and measures. The United States has been dragging along behind almost all the rest of the civilized world in this matter. I think the metric system was worked out by the French people perhaps one hundred and fifty years ago. In Switzerland they began teaching it in public schools in 1868. In 1878 it was made compulsory, beginning on the first day of January. All the old scales and measures had to be discarded and the new system used. While some of the people had objected to it, yet, after they became used to it, they were very glad of the change, because the metric system is so much easier in figuring, as all figures go by decimals.

C. J. OSWALD.

STOCK WINTERED WELL IN ALBERTA

BINDLOSS, ALBERTA, March 19, 1930.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Stock has wintered exceptionally well in this part of Alberta. We have had very little snow so far, and feed on the range is rather short on account of the dry season last year.

C. A. JARBOE.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

IN CONGRESS

MORE THAN FOURTEEN MONTHS AFTER HEARINGS on the Hawley-Smoot tariff bill (H. R. 2667) began before the Ways and Means Committee of the House, the measure was finally passed by the Senate on March 24, by a vote of 53 to 31; 46 Republicans and 7 Democrats voting for, and 5 Republicans and 26 Democrats against.

While the average of all rates is somewhat lower in the Senate than in the House bill, it is pleasing to note that agricultural schedules generally are higher. To this rule, unfortunately, hides form an exception. After endless maneuvering and a valiant fight by friends of the cattleman, led by Senator Oddie, of Nevada, the last of a series of amendments putting a duty on hides was lost by one vote. This left hides on the free list, where they had been put in committee of the whole. With them went leather and shoes.

Against this action by the Senate stand the House rates of 10 per cent on hides, 12.5 to 30 per cent on leather, and 20 per cent on shoes. This discrepancy must now be hammered out in conference. At this writing it looks as if a serious attempt were to be made to restore the 10 per cent duty on hides. By accepting this, the tanning and shoe-manufacturing interests would be in a stronger position to demand a duty on their own products, for which they have been so vigorously contending. A rate of 10 per cent, however, would mean little or nothing to the live-stock man, and, coupled with a duty on leather and shoes, would be a loss rather than a gain. Opposition to a compromise along this line is, therefore, sure to develop, and THE PRODUCER would ask friends of the stockman in Congress to vote against it. If we cannot have a rate on hides which will offer real protection, together with only a reasonable duty on leather and shoes, then we would prefer to see everything remain on the free list. More's the pity!

Other agricultural rates in the Senate bill are fairly satisfactory. The raising of the duty on live cattle by 1 cent over the present law, and lowering of the division weight from 1,050 to 700 pounds, will meet with approval. So will the doubling of the duty, from 3 to 6 cents a pound, on fresh beef and veal, and the increase on canned meats from 20 per cent ad valorem to 6 cents a pound. The clause making mandatory prohibition of imports of live stock and fresh meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease is known to exist is an extremely important provision. The increase in the wool tariff from 31 to 34 cents a pound has pleased wool-growers, and the 2-cent-a-pound rate on Cuban sugar, though not all that had been hoped for, is reasonably acceptable to the beet-producing states of the West. These rates, it is expected, will generally prevail in conference.

The ten conferees—five from each branch—have now been appointed and have settled down to work. It is not going to be an easy task to reconcile the differences between the

two measures, and final passage of the tariff bill may be deferred until late next month or early in June—at least that is the prediction of Senator Smoot, who probably knows as much about it as anyone. It must be remembered that the bill as adopted in the Senate, besides changing most of the House rates, carries the controversial debenture rider, which is bound to create trouble, and even, some prophesy, may provoke a presidential veto, should it not be eliminated before the measure reaches the White House. President Hoover, anyway, is probably none too well pleased with the way in which Congress has carried out his recommendations for agricultural relief through tariff revision, and might use the debenture as an excuse for expressing his disapproval of the bill as a whole. Then, too, there is the so-called "flexible provision," which gives the President power to raise or reduce tariff rates by 50 per cent. This authority was taken away from him by the Senate and bestowed on Congress, making it another stumbling-block to harmony.

When the tariff bill is finally passed, and signed, THE PRODUCER will print a complete list of the new and superseded rates of special interest to our readers.

(Just as we go to press, word is received that the Senate rates of 2½ and 3 cents on cattle, and lowering the division weight to 700 pounds, have been agreed upon in conference.)

* * *

A bill (H. R. 9984) has been introduced by Representative Johnston, of Missouri, to amend the Federal Farm Loan Act by providing that no loan on mortgages shall be made at a rate of interest exceeding 4 per cent. Under the law as it now stands, 6 per cent is the maximum.

Senator McNary, of Oregon, has presented a bill (S. 3594) which would authorize appropriations for the construction and maintenance of improvements to protect national forests from fire. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931, the sum of \$4,500,000 would be appropriated; \$4,500,000 for the year ending June, 1932; \$4,200,000 for the year ending June, 1933; and thereafter \$4,000,000 annually. Of these amounts, not to exceed \$3,000,000 annually would be available for roads and trails.

Investigations looking to the eradication of avian tuberculosis are provided for in a bill (S. 3629) introduced by Senator Deneen, of Illinois, which would authorize the appropriation of \$550,000 for the purpose.

Senator Wheeler, of Montana, under S. 3652, would amend the Grain Futures Act by making it unlawful for any person, liable under a grain futures contract, to deliver any grain of a grade different from that covered in the contract, or to settle any contract except on the basis of the market price of the grade covered, at the time of delivery specified.

An investigation into the activities of the Federal Farm Board and the grain trade by the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry is provided for in a resolution (S. Res. 221) intro-

duced by Senator Nye, of North Dakota. Action has been postponed at the request of Secretary of Agriculture Hyde.

Authority for the Secretary of the Interior to make exchanges of certain lands, in connection with the creation of wild-life reservations to be administered by the Department of Agriculture, would be provided under a bill (H. R. 10422) introduced by Representative Colton, of Utah.

Senator Steiwer, of Oregon, has introduced a bill (S. 3776) to exempt from federal income tax the income from agricultural loans.

Chairman Haugen, of the House Committee on Agriculture, has submitted a measure which would establish uniform standards for market classification and grading of live stock and live-stock products.

For loans to farmers in storm-, flood-, and drought-stricken regions, for seed, feed, and fertilizer for the 1930 crops, a fund of \$6,000,000 has been provided by Congress, under authority of a resolution passed last month.

The Dowell-Phipps road bill, authorizing the expenditure of \$375,000,000 during the next three years for road construction—\$125,000,000 for each of the three years 1931, 1932, and 1933—has been signed by President Hoover.

THE FARM BOARD

PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MARKETING Association, with its two subsidiaries, the National Feeder and Finance Corporation and the National Live Stock Publishing Association, adopted by representatives of co-operative sales agencies at a meeting in Chicago, February 25 and 26, as mentioned in the March PRODUCER, are now being considered by the boards of directors of the various agencies. After the plan has been approved, and the marketing agreement signed, by agencies handling two-thirds of the total business done by all live-stock co-operatives in 1929, the association will be incorporated, and will then be ready to begin functioning.

In order to secure a representative on the board of directors of the association, a member agency must have marketed not less than 2,500 single-deck carloads, or their equivalent, during the previous calendar year. Co-operative agencies handling less than 2,500 carloads may become stockholders if approved by the directors of the association.

One of the main features of the marketing plan is that the control of sales and policies of member agencies will be vested in the National Association, to be effected by a sales board consisting of the managers of that association, the National Order Buying Company, and the National Feeder and Finance Corporation. When finally organized, the association will be eligible to borrow money from the Federal Farm Board. Provision has been made for financing live-stock producers by assisting co-operative marketing organizations in establishing regional credit corporations in the districts of the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks. These corporations will function through the National Feeder and Finance Corporation, which is to be owned and controlled by the National Marketing Association.

The sales board of the National Association will aim to obtain the most authoritative information relative to the supply and demand situation. With this information as a basis, it will transmit daily reports to member agencies for their direction. Through centralized control, and through the Live Stock Advisory Commodity Committee which is to be set up, the association is expected to perform another important function by standardizing prices and grades.

Announcement has been made by President L. B. Palmer, of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, that control of the nation's wool market is now practically assured, in that the 100,000,000 pounds—one-third of the nation's annual clip—set as the initial goal, is now within reach. An advance of 90 per cent of the market value of the wool has been arranged for, upon delivery at shipping points. The wool will then be stored, awaiting a favorable market, and the remaining 10 per cent of the price will be paid following the sale.

Within a few weeks, it was stated at a meeting of officers and directors in Chicago last month, there will be co-operative units affiliated with the National Corporation in every wool-producing center in the country.

* * *

An intensive campaign has been started by Chairman Legge, of the Farm Board, for reduction of the wheat acreage by at least 10 per cent. In such reduction, adjusting production to domestic demand, Mr. Legge sees the only hope for permanent relief from present price conditions. "No other industry in the world blindly produces without any attention to potential market possibilities," says Mr. Legge. "If farmers are going ahead and trying to produce an additional surplus on the basis that some way will be found to take care of it on a fair price-level another year, they are going to be mistaken."

At Topeka, on March 19, representatives of all the major farm organizations of Kansas agreed to unite in support of the Farm Board's program for the co-operative marketing of wheat.

George S. Milnor, of Alton, Illinois, has been named vice-president and general manager of the Grain Stabilization Corporation.

* * *

Approval was given by Congress last month of an additional appropriation of \$100,000,000 for the use of the Farm Board. This will be taken out of the \$350,000,000 left of the fund of \$500,000,000 authorized for this purpose.

STATUS OF CONSENT DECREE

THE MASS OF TECHNICALITIES IN WHICH THE Packers' Consent Decree has been enmeshed is gradually being disentangled. Entered ten years ago—on February 27, 1920—the decree in certain of its provisions has never been fully enforced. Up to May 1, 1925, several extensions of time were granted the packers by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, where the decree was entered, in order to afford them a reasonable opportunity to dispose of their stockyard holdings and their interests in "unrelated lines." On that date the operation of the decree was suspended, pending the determination of the right of the California Co-operative Canneries to intervene for the purpose of having the decree vacated. May 20, 1929, this right was denied them by the Supreme Court of the United States, terminating the suspension and automatically putting the terms of the decree back into effect.

Shortly thereafter Armour and Swift filed petitions asking for modification of the decree, claiming that changes in conditions since its entry had rendered its injunctive provisions inequitable or unnecessary. Hearings were thereupon held, at which representatives of the American National Live Stock Association and numerous other live-stock organizations testified, being practically unanimous in their opinion that the clause prohibiting the packers from engaging in the retailing of meats and related lines should be removed from the decree,

although a majority of them still felt that the packers ought to be relieved of their stock-yard holdings. At the same time, the Department of Justice started an investigation on its own account of the facts pertinent to the determination of the petitions, and on January 17, 1930, filed an answer, alleging that the declarations contained therein were insufficient to grant the relief prayed for, and requiring the packers to establish their case in all particulars.

Motions to dismiss the packers' petitions were filed in the court by the National Wholesale Grocers' Association and the American Wholesale Grocers' Association, on the grounds that, the decree being final, the court did not have jurisdiction at this time to entertain a request to modify it, and that, anyway, no modification could legally be granted without the consent of all parties to the original proceeding. On March 14, twenty days' additional time was given the packers to file an amended petition to clear up the point of insufficiency of evidence.

This, then, leaves the matter to be decided early this month the motion by the grocers' associations to dismiss the packers' petition for modification. While the Department of Justice has made it clear that it will expect the packers to give more definite reasons for granting their petition than contained in their original briefs, its further action in the premises is stated to be dependent upon developments as the case is presented in court.

Meanwhile, additional support for the attitude of producers is found in a letter from Alexander Legge to the president of the American Wholesale Grocers' Association. In this letter the chairman of the Federal Farm Board expresses the position of the board as being in accord with that of "farmers' live-stock co-operatives" in their demand for modification of the decree.

MANY ACTIVITIES OF BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

GRATIFYING PROGRESS IS SHOWN IN THE SUPPRESSION of animal diseases, according to the report of Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry. In the case of bovine tuberculosis, not only is the number of carcasses of both cattle and swine condemned from this cause at slaughtering points constantly decreasing, but in the field-work of eradication the percentage of reactors in cattle tested has been lowered from 4.9 in 1928 to 1.8 in 1929. Since the beginning of this work, in 1916, a total of 62,024,793 cattle had been tested up to the end of the last fiscal year—more than the entire cattle population of the United States today. At the present rate of approximately one million a month, it will not be many years before all our cattle will have been given at least one test, and the goal—practical elimination of this costly disease—be in sight.

In the fight on the cattle tick, similar results are shown. Twenty-two years ago, when systematic eradication was commenced, 985 counties in fifteen southern states were quarantined as being tick-infested. On June 30, 1929, the number of counties had been reduced to 198, and nine of the fifteen states had been completely freed of the pest.

During the year under review the latest outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in this country occurred in California. Like previous invasions, this was traced to infected meat from countries to the south of us where the disease is known to exist. Taken in connection with the findings of the British and American commissions, which made an exhaustive study of the disease a few years ago, this shows the serious danger involved in importation of fresh meats from such countries.

Owing to its prompt discovery, and the energetic measures taken by federal and state authorities, the outbreak was eradicated within sixty days. As a safeguard for the future, the bureau is constantly maintaining equipment and supplies for combating the disease at convenient points throughout the country, and the personnel includes men trained in diagnosis and the conduct of field operations.

Ante- and post-mortem inspection of slaughter animals was conducted at 801 establishments in 253 cities and towns, as compared with 829 establishments in 255 cities and towns during the previous year. A total of 73,887,518 animals were examined before killing, of which 8,286,116 were cattle, 4,517,593 calves, 13,769,098 sheep, 21,287 goats, 47,176,538 swine, and 116,886 horses. Of this number, 73,540,903 were passed, 342,240 "suspected," and 4,375 condemned. Post-mortem inspection was given to 73,881,247 animals, of which 230,776 were condemned.

Imports of meat and meat-food products during the year aggregated 169,865,014 pounds. Of this amount, 53,085,288 pounds were fresh and refrigerated beef—practically all from Canada and New Zealand—and 89,511,853 pounds canned and cured meats, the bulk of which came from Argentina, Uruguay, and Canada.

Research into the quality and palatability of meat, carried on in co-operation with state experiment stations, the Institute of American Meat Packers, and the National Live Stock and Meat Board, has, among other things, disclosed that steers of inferior breeding can be fattened to best advantage at an early age, whereas the better types will usually pay a greater profit if held a longer period before finishing. Feeding experiments have continued to show the value of supplying grain to steers on pasture. In a three-year test in West Virginia, feeding of corn and cottonseed meal to three-year-old steers on grass increased the profit about 22 per cent, this being accompanied by larger gains, higher yield of dressed meat, and a higher, more tender grade of carcass. Full data from these experiments will be published when jointly approved.

On July 1, 1928, the bureau took over the administration of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act. Most important of the proceedings under that act during the year was the Omaha commission-rate case, recently argued before the United States Supreme Court, in which the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe rates for the services of commission men was questioned. (A favorable decision has been rendered.) The order of the secretary against certain market agencies at Kansas City to "cease and desist" from boycotting practices against co-operative concerns operating at that market was sustained by the United States Supreme Court. During the year, valuations of stock-yard properties at Kansas City and National Stock Yards, Illinois, were completed, and the general stock-yard rate investigation was advanced.

A multitude of other matters are discussed in the report, among them being the many experiments carried on in various parts of the country, under the auspices of the bureau, for improved methods of live-stock production, and healthier and better animals.

British Government Moves to Help Farmers

The British cabinet is said to be supporting a plan for state purchase of the domestic wheat crop, and for the organization of district selling agencies, with membership on a compulsory basis. It is also reported to have indorsed regulations by statute of the minimum content of home-grown wheat in all flour milled in Great Britain.

OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BY CHARLES E. BLAINE

Traffic Counsel, American National Live Stock Association

Pending Legislation in Congress

H. R. 10288—the bill providing for the regulation of the passenger motor bus in interstate commerce—was reported by Chairman Parker, of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, on February 27. The report reviews the history of the situation relating to proposed regulation for the common carrier bus in interstate commerce, and recommends that it be passed.

Senate Joint Resolution 146 (Senator Dill) directs the Interstate Commerce Commission to forbid the proposed consolidation of the Great Northern Railway, the Northern Pacific Railway, and the Spokane, Portland & Seattle.

Court Decisions

The Court of Civil Appeals of Texas (Austin), in *Texas & N. O. R. R. Co. et al. v. Miller Bros. et al.*, 22 S. W. Rep. (2-D) 988, held that the reduced market value of cattle at destination, resulting from negligence of the carrier, is basis for recovery of damages, regardless of whether the cattle were to be sold on the market or placed in a pasture; further, that recovery is not dependent on showing of actual damage when cattle are shipped from one place to another for pasture purposes.

In *Charles J. Webb & Sons, Inc. v. Central Railway Company of New Jersey*, 36 Fed. Rep. (2-D), the Circuit Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, held that the bill-of-lading covering transportation became the contract between the carrier and the shipper at the time it was accepted by the carrier without comment or change, though not becoming a bill-of-lading strictly until signed and delivered.

The Supreme Court of the United States, in *C. & N. W. Ry. Co. v. O. N. Lindell*, held, in effect, that in a suit by the carrier for collection of freight charges the shipper has a right to plead, by way of set-off, a counter-claim for loss suffered by him for damages sustained on the shipment in question.

Decisions of Interstate Commerce Commission

In Finance Docket 7024, the Interstate Commerce Commission has denied the application of the Western Pacific to construct 138 miles of new line in and through the San Joaquin Valley of California. It found that the present and future public convenience and necessity were not shown to require the construction of the proposed line at this time.

In Finance Dockets 6409 and 6410, the Interstate Commerce Commission has authorized the acquisition by the Great Northern Pacific Railway—a new corporation—of control of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific Railroads, and the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway, through lease and

stock-ownership. The authority is granted subject to the following conditions:

"The record will be held open for the submission to us by the applicants, for our consideration and approval, of a supplemental plan or proposal which, while not altering the recorded applications in other respects, shall give acceptable assurance and provide that: (1) the Burlington shall be divorced from control by the northern companies within a reasonable period of time, such period to be stated as nearly as may be practicable; (2) a bona-fide and feasible plan for the acquisition and operation of all the so-called short lines of railroad named in System No. 12 of the consolidation plan, except such thereof as may be found by us, upon this record or from a subsequent showing, not to be required by the present or future public convenience and necessity; (3) a comprehensive program and statement of proposed policy in the matter of the unified operation of terminals, or its equivalent, as hereinbefore explained; (4) suitable assurance that the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, upon fair terms, may have access from Spokane to Portland and intervening points, over the lines of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Company."

In Finance Docket No. 8039, the Interstate Commerce Commission has authorized the Colorado & Southern Railway to acquire and operate twelve lines of railroad, aggregating approximately 141 miles, now owned by the Colorado Railway.

Formal Cases Pending before Commission

In I. C. C. Docket 23046, complainants attack the rates on feeder cattle from Modena, Utah, to Bakersfield and Allensworth, California; from Cedar City, Utah, to Woodford, Caliente, and Allensworth, California; also from East Ely, Nevada, to Allensworth, California. They allege that the rates charged are unreasonable, requesting the commission to prescribe reasonable rates and award reparation.

In Formal Complaint No. 23145, the Arizona Wool Growers' Association, and others similarly situated, attack the rates and charges on sheep and goats from Benson, Fowler, Phoenix, Tucson, and other Arizona points to Kansas City and St. Joseph, Missouri. The complaint alleges that the rates are in violation of sections 1 and 6 of the act. Reasonable rates for the future, and reparation, are asked.

THE NEW AUDITING DEPARTMENT

SEVERAL STOCKMEN HAVE ALREADY AVAILED themselves of the new freight-auditing service described in detail in the March PRODUCER. We hope the number will increase each month. Many of you who have neglected to check your freight bills will be surprised at the results from a careful audit by a traffic expert. There is no charge for the service unless a refund is secured. Be sure to send full details concerning the movement, with the original bills, or copies thereof, to the Denver office. If you have nothing but the account sales, write your commission men for copies of the freight bills.

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN MARCH

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., April 1, 1930.

WHATEVER ELSE MAY BE SAID ABOUT THE cattle market, complimentary or otherwise, it has been resistant; also resilient. In the general bear raid on all commodity values, naturally it suffered. Depreciation has been an irresistible force ever since Wall Street awoke to nurse a prolonged headache last fall, even the Detroit product of old Hank Ford joining the procession, contrary to a popular impression that Henry is immune. The shadow of a manipulated, but distressed, wheat trade fell across the whole live-stock market, so that cattle could not escape the effect of the pall. At that, it was not a bad market, its worst feature being lack of absorptive capacity. Whenever two more cattle than were actually needed to satisfy urgent demand reported at the market, buyers chanted their "take off a quarter" slogan in chorus, frequently getting away with it. When they had admonition to "take off a quarter, but fill your order," they paid steady prices. Otherwise the stated buying policy has been to sit on the fence until salesmen came across. Occasionally the selling side of the trade was able to put on a "quarter" or even a "half," making a seesaw market and necessitating a full month's effort to depress the general level of prices around a dollar per cwt. The position of the feeder was improved by a gradual decline in corn, reflecting the wheat debacle. Possibility of making cheaper gains held some cattle back, as the replacement problem was serious, thus injecting an element of stability, which is too frequently confounded with valorization. The country played the supply game somewhat adroitly, checking the run whenever the prospect appeared lugubrious. Had the other horn of the dilemma been taken, the buying side in all probability would have ruled the roost.

Beef Trade Reviving Late in March

Late in March, when pessimism of the opaque variety was running riot, beef trade was forced to hoist a white flag. Cooler stocks vanished, buyers took the last pound of beef from the "sold" rail, and a miniature buying scramble developed in the cattle alleys. Naturally its influence was most potent in the case of good steers, but everything responded, not excepting a previously demoralized cow market. The top on heavy cattle, which in this instance weighed 1,750 pounds, reverted to \$15, and a respectable string of \$13.50 to \$14.25 trades was recorded at Chicago, where the bulk of such product is handled. The \$12 to \$13 kinds, known in market parlance as "in-between" steers, came to life, and the "skates," "yellow-hammers," and "snipes," as they are variously known, according to color, shape, and condition, some of them selling down to \$10, also got off well. Reflection or resort to past market performance will justify assumption that when 99 per cent of a steer supply sells within a range of \$10 to \$15 per cwt., such a market is in no serious need of an apologist, and that a certain type of anxious inquirer, perennially seeking information concerning probability of higher prices, is in the same category as Mark Twain's idiot, the real problem here being: Can present prices be maintained?

Prices in Need of Readjustment

The fat-cattle market during the past sixty days has been a shifting affair in this respect: the different grades frequently got out of line, whereupon readjustment became automatic. This was due to persistent effort on the buying side to reduce beef cost by attacking weak points in fat cattle. It was excellent strategy, but has been handicapped by a feeder policy that held out such cattle as were forced down. Thus a raid on good steers insured temporary paucity of that kind, and when values of the cheaper grades melted, buyers promptly ran into hard picking on that type. Heifer trade wobbled as much as \$1 per cwt. within a week, and the ups and downs of middle-grade steers were erratic. This was possible because the winter crop of cattle has been in strong hands ever since installation, and has paid its board in the feed-lot. Supply conditions of last fall have been reversed, as at that time selling pressure was constant. Whenever feeders are in possession of an excess supply of overdone, heavy cattle that have overstayed their logical market, the technical position of their owners is logically weak.

Quality of Fat Cattle below Par

Condition of the winter-made crop of fat cattle has been the poorest in many years, and with respect to quality the same verdict is not open to serious dispute. The proportion of ill-bred steers—plain, rough, badly colored, and even trashy—has been large, indicating the drastic manner in which it has been necessary to scrape the country for feed-lot material. An overdone load of steers has been rare, although an occasional consignment fed a year or more, and carried along with the illusive hope of return to a \$17 market, has shown up. But for this penchant to play a doubtful game, the big steer would have vanished. The rank and file of the March steer offering comprised merely warmed-up bullocks selling anywhere from \$11.50 to \$13.50, with few above \$13; and the cheaper they were priced, the greater the celerity with which they went over the scales. A buyer would ride past a load of \$14 cattle

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1. It does not injure the wool;
2. It is easy to apply—makes a clean brand;
3. Costs less, per animal, to use;
4. Withstands weathering; sun or rain does not affect it;
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Among the good things in Purina Steer Fatena are cottonseed...linseed...molasses...three real cattle feeds all in one! Everything there your bulls need for staying power...for health 12 months a year! Put Purina Steer Fatena before your breeders. It will show up in more cows with calf...more calves at calving time...better calves to feed...more dollars in your pocket that are all yours!



THE PURINA POUND IS THE CHEAPEST



to get down a bid on Holsteins or similar trash, from a beef standpoint, that could be purchased between \$10 and \$11. All of which indicated the potency of chain-store influence on beef distribution; also a consumer tendency to get away from price, at the expense of quality.

Scrubs Paying Their Board

This has made a profitable market for those who pinned their confidence on the ability of scrub cattle to pay their board in the feed-lot last fall. The \$10.50 to \$12 kinds have made a good production record, selling more readily and to better advantage than \$12.50 to \$13.50 product. A salesman who put over two loads of cattle—one at \$10.50, the other at \$12.50—remarked: "Those ten-dollar skates look to be worth \$5 per cwt. less than the others, but they will fetch nearly as much in the beef." Trash has always had competition, as feeders have picked out most of the promising fleshy steers in the run, either taking them to the country or forcing killers to pay more than they were worth to feed. Middle-grade steers lacked this competition and were at a disadvantage.

Slaughter Tonnage Reduced

Statistics show about the same number of cattle reaching the markets since January 1 as last year; but, as usual, figures are misleading unless properly interpreted. A much larger proportion of the entire supply, particularly at Missouri River markets, has gone back to the country than during the corresponding period of 1929, reducing beef tonnage to that extent, and the percentage of heavy, high-dressing steers has been conspicuously less. Stock-cattle demand has inserted a stout prop under the price list, and whenever country demand subsides that prop weakens. It has pushed low-price cattle up right along, and, as at intervals higher-priced cattle have exerted a pulling influence, the market has had two powerful uplifting influences.

Hog Values Strike a Snag

Hogs were well on the way to a \$12 basis when general commodity liquidation exerted a depressing effect. For one thing, the speculator in the provision pit dropped out, nullifying a healthy export demand and moderate stocks of lard and meats. Extensive use of lard substitutes kept that commodity hovering about the price of live hogs and, so far as the packer was concerned, relegating it to the position of a by-product, automatically putting a load on the meat, in much the same manner as hide prices imposed a burden on beef and cheap pelts handicapped lamb. The coterie of small packers were unable to hedge product against current production, as is their usual custom, forcing them to go to their bankers for daily purchase money; and the bankers, unusually timid at this juncture, enjoined them in no uncertain terms to buy hogs, their raw material, lower, or let it alone. Preliminary to this, they cut their pay-roll to the irreducible minimum, if not lower, which relieved them of necessity for paying standing time—a war-period rule imposed by tyrannical labor unions. With a smaller gang, they were able to "lay out" of the hog market at their own sweet will, or until the vendors of their raw material came to their terms, which were \$9.50 to \$10 per cwt., Chicago basis. The big packer, to protect his holdings, was under the necessity of taking provision-pit offerings to some extent, but always reluctantly. Eastern speculators, who in normal times are accustomed to buy any commodity when it sells below what they consider intrinsic value, had troubles of their own, especially in the security market, where lies their major interest, so that provision trade went adrift without rudder, chart, or pilot. This merely indicates how an

adverse situation in one market exerts a sympathetic influence on all others. Hogs were caught in the swirl of stocks, wheat, and butter, in all of which liquidation either has been running its logical course or impends. However, stocks of both lard and meats are much lighter than last year, and consumption is normal, with the exception of that notorious lame duck, lard; so that, with a short crop, hogs have a chance to recover. Packers are taking no chances of inventory loss, banker admonition to chart a close-to-shore course ringing constantly in their ears. This year's short hog crop was a beneficence, as value might easily have been \$2 per cwt. lower otherwise.

No Improvement in Lamb Market

Retarded liquidation of the Colorado and Nebraska crop of winter-fed lambs has not improved market conditions, and, as the residue of the crop must be crowded into distributive channels from this time on, little improvement is to be expected until the middle of May. Meanwhile California and southwestern spring lambs will be on top. During the early part of March the situation became somewhat more favorable, top lambs reaching \$11.25 at Chicago, and the bulk selling at \$10.75 to \$11; but during the last two weeks depreciation was resumed, until \$10.25 was out on the limb, and \$9.50 to \$9.85 took the bulk of the offering at Chicago, Denver going to a \$9 basis. Each low spot was hailed as the low spot of the season, but it did not work out that way. It was a stable

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Price, \$135 each, in lots of one-half dozen

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market, or reasonably so, as the fluctuations were never more than 25 cents daily; which merely demonstrates that prices may be stabilized on a low, but not on a high, basis. How much money winter feeders will lose, in the aggregate or individually, on this crop of lambs, is beyond the calculating capacity of even an Einstein, but the total will be enormous. The crop was ill-fated from the moment it went into the feedlot, followed by adverse physical conditions last fall. Feeders are resigned; in fact, their psychological condition was indicated by a salesman recently when he said: "I sold a string of lambs for a Nebraska man at \$9.85 today, and he didn't make a kick. A year ago, when I got \$17, he protested that I had given them away."

Low Prices Stimulate Consumption

Cheap lamb has undoubtedly exerted a restrictive influence on beef consumption, owing to consumer tendency to turn to cheaper foods. Easterners have eaten more lamb during the past three months than ever before, and it is probable that they will acquire a taste for it, which will be to the advantage of producers, whose real problem is creation of a wider market. What the immediate result in the way of price determination will be is anybody's guess. Certainly feeders will be in economical mood at replacement time next summer and fall, and the farmer who was imbued with a fervent desire to own a farm flock recently will not be in the market for western yearling ewes, although the present may offer a more favorable investment opportunity than when values were substantially higher.

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INTERPRETING MARKET SIGNS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

A SOMEWHAT CONFUSED, ALSO OBSCURE, SPRING and summer cattle prospect admits of various interpretation. If the employment phase could be clarified, the outlook would be more promising; but, despite a prosperity anvil chorus by publicists, bankers, politicians, and others, the fact remains that pay-rolls are slack and that the industrial outlook, especially with respect to construction, is somewhat hazy. Supply prospects are more in the open. The trade realizes that no surplus of finished cattle is in the offing, that the 1929 excessive-weight bugaboo will be eliminated, and that the season's production on a tonnage basis will be considerably lighter than last year. East of the Mississippi River few cattle are in the preparation stage. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri have the usual quota, but all are short on age and weight. What will happen when pasture cattle join the marketward procession is anybody's guess, but Kansas and Oklahoma grass areas have by this time absorbed their usual supply. Probably the season's gathering in the trans-Missouri area will be equal to that of 1929; east of the Missouri it will be short, at least so far as steers are concerned, although the slump in butter values will send far more dairy cows into beef channels than would have been the case otherwise.

Fat cattle have resisted bear raids more effectively than other food commodities. The battering-ram was used effectively by killers during the early part of March, but late in the month, under storm conditions, overnight recoveries ranging from 50 cents to \$1 per cwt. were effected. Beef distribution is on a hand-to-mouth basis—a settled policy with killers—so that sudden, if not wide, fluctuations may be expected, the keynote of the situation being supply. Despite cheap corn, the rank and file of feeders are looking for places to drop cattle, and will order cars on every bulge, as few are disposed to run into long feeds. In fact, the condition of most of the steers reaching the market indicates determination to get the money back in the bank at the earliest possible moment, which accounts for the large proportion of the crop selling below \$12.50, while a few finished bullocks are eligible to \$14 to \$15, and even more. It will be a crop of merely warmed-up and short-fed steers throughout the year, other than such contributions as come from beef-making plants where standardization is practiced.

Weight has gone to a premium, and will stay there. In this respect, 1929 conditions will be reversed; which means that the heavy grist of overdone and overweight steers with which the trade wrestled during the latter half of 1929 will not repeat. If it is possible to peer around the corner, the latter half of 1930 should be more satisfactory to cattle-owners than the corresponding period of 1929, especially if industry gets anywhere near a normal basis. Whenever heavy cattle are entitled to the premium which legitimately is theirs, the entire market is maintained on a healthier basis than when the "big brutes" drag.

Killers' policy in "laying out" of the market until coolers are bare does not make for stable prices. Frequently one of the big houses will keep its buyers in the office until a scramble for numbers is necessary to get enough beef to take care of its trade, whereupon prices go skyward. This keeps the market hopping up and down in erratic manner. It may be intelligent buying, but the selling side is skeptical on that score. Refusing to look at cattle on one session, then cleaning the alley next day at sharp advances, is at least open to criticism. It must be admitted that cattle are high, from the beef-dis-

tributor's standpoint at least, and that the stated policy of "saving the house a dollar" has the sanction of long custom.

That finished cattle of all weights, from 800-pound yearlings to 1,500-pound kosher bullocks, and an occasional load weighing 1,600 to 1,700 pounds needed to fill a Boston order, are in strong position will not be disputed. What of the others? Common cattle selling anywhere from \$10 to \$12 have found good going since the turn of the year, and are running into the season when killers get access to more beef of that type. During February and well along into March, feeders were free buyers of such steers as were suited to their needs within that price range, but subsequently their daily combing of the crop became less persistent, diverting more lower-priced cattle to the killing-floor. What feeders will do the rest of the season is a profound secret, but, as the summer works along, buyers of low-grade steers will run into easier picking, with strong probability that the spread will widen, especially if the dairy sections add materially to the supply of cheap beef by dumping boarder cows into the market hopper. Fat yearlings will get a cordial reception at the market, but killers have their pins set to penalize warmed-up and half-fat little cattle, which may semi-demoralize prices during brief and irregularly recurring periods. If feeders would adopt the policy of feeding yearlings out to a reasonable degree of finish, much of the vicissitude they encounter at selling time could be avoided. There are none too many of last year's qualified calves in the preparation stage, and a strong probability exists that the farther feeders go with them, the better they will fare in a monetary sense.

Physical conditions will have much to do with results of the grass-beef season. With present purchasing power, chain-store domination of distribution, and other factors, the trade can absorb considerable numbers of cattle in decent condition, selling within a range of \$10 to \$12 per cwt. Seasonal price adjustment cannot be avoided. In fact, it was in progress late in March, and it is probable that relative scarcity of finished steers will be responsible for what may appear to be out-of-line values, as the market always pays most for what is scarce. Certainly the raft of "yellow-hammer," "dogie," and otherwise ill-bred cattle cannot expect high winter prices through the spring and summer months. A brief but logical forecast of the spring and summer fat-cattle market is that it will reverse last year's performance.

A short crop of hogs had been closely gathered by the end of March, although the country was still able to send 500,000 head in a single week to the ten markets occasionally. The spring break occurred unusually early—in March—this year, and, if the rule is operative, the summer rise will be similarly early. Hogs should command good prices all summer, as stocks of lard and both frozen and cured meats are moderate, fresh-meat consumption broad, and trade in cured meats early. Frozen pork has been moving in large quantities, which should reduce visible summer supply and make for a healthy June-to-September trade. Note should be taken, however, of the fact that pork production is already at the expansion stage of the cycle, which will mean another cheap crop, if not a period of unprofitable production, in 1932, if not earlier.

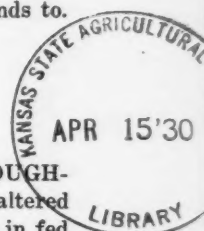
The sheep industry has had a severe bump. How seriously it has been injured cannot be determined until the smoke of the winter battle at the market has cleared away. Late in March the bulk of fat lambs sold at \$9.50 to \$10, Chicago basis, against \$16.70 to \$17.50 a year ago, and first spring-lamb arrivals at Missouri River markets earned \$12.50, compared with \$20 last year. Present price conditions are, however, somewhat abnormal, the result of temporary excessive marketing by Colorado and Nebraska, so that a readjustment

should follow liquidation in that quarter. Undoubtedly it means a cheaper crop of range lambs this year, as feeders will endeavor to get in on a basis that will enable them to find some of their money where it was lost; but, at lower prices, Corn Belt feeders will enter a market from which they were all but excluded much of the time last year. Between low wool and low lamb prices, expansion of the lamb-raising industry will be abruptly checked, the probability being that farmers east of the Missouri River will send ewes to market with their lambs next fall. Another supply probability, if not certainty, is that a large percentage of the range crop of ewe lambs will go either to the butcher or to the feeder next fall, as they cannot be carried into the yearling stage profitably. The whole scale of bovine values is in process of adjustment, and all summer will be needed to work out the process. Feeders are talking 7- to 8-cent lambs on the range, but may revise their ideas upward if the spring and summer fat-lamb market rounds to.

STOCKER DEMAND CHECKED

J. E. P.

AFTER MAINTAINING A LIVELY PACE THROUGH-
out January and February, stock-cattle trade faltered about the middle of March, incidental to a dollar decline in fed cattle, which narrowed the margin between the two classes to



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the danger point. That the whole country needs cattle is, however, an open secret, fear of prices being the only purchase-restraining influence. Since the turn of the year the movement to the country through the markets has been substantially heavier than last year, but it has comprised a different type of steers in the main—light in weight and somewhat inferior in quality, many buyers dipping into the nondescript class for reasons of economy. Some of these cattle have been definitely removed from beef supply until next winter, having been acquired to get a grass bill and feed out on the next corn crop. Feeders are looking ahead rather than figuring on a near-by market.

During the past three months the country has acquired a considerable number of cattle weighing anywhere from 600 to 900 pounds, at a range of \$10 to \$11.50, some scalawags selling down to \$9, and a short percentage up to \$12 or better; but the majority of such purchases are long-pull cattle. At a dollar decline, purchases would be materially increased, so that there is a potential buying power behind the market, not to be ignored in figuring future values.

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COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on April 1, 1930, compared with March 3, 1930, and April 1, 1929:

	April 1, 1930	Mar. 3, 1930	April 1, 1929
SLAUGHTER STEERS:			
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.).....	\$14.25-15.00	\$14.75-15.50	\$13.75-14.50
Good	12.25-14.25	12.90-15.00	12.75-13.75
Choice (1,100 lbs. down).....	14.25-15.00	14.75-15.75	13.75-14.75
Good	12.00-14.25	12.90-15.00	13.00-14.00
Medium (800 lbs. up).....	10.75-12.25	11.25-12.90	11.50-13.00
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	12.00-15.00	12.75-15.75	13.00-15.00
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	9.75-13.75	9.75-14.25	10.25-14.00
COWS:			
Good to Choice	7.75-10.00	7.50-10.25	8.50-10.50
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up).....	10.25-11.75	10.75-11.75	11.75-13.00
Common to Medium.....	8.50-10.25	8.50-10.75	9.50-11.75
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down).....	10.25-11.75	10.75-11.75	11.50-13.00
Common to Medium.....	8.25-10.25	8.25-10.75	9.75-11.50
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)....	9.50-10.35	10.40-11.40	11.40-11.85
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (92 lbs. down).....	8.25-10.00	9.50-11.25	15.50-17.50

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, SHIPMENTS, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-four markets for the month of February, 1930, compared with February, 1929, and for the two months ending February, 1930 and 1929:

RECEIPTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*.....	908,227	813,477	2,062,827	1,973,066
Calves.....	417,699	381,073	902,136	860,105
Hogs.....	3,781,490	4,000,024	8,501,843	9,133,341
Sheep.....	1,803,044	1,544,047	3,706,229	3,421,428

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*.....	388,295	300,193	874,572	723,981
Calves.....	120,019	104,655	256,581	241,647
Hogs.....	1,490,802	1,502,488	3,288,002	3,366,551
Sheep.....	734,777	682,828	1,520,845	1,519,986

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*.....	172,646	105,908	373,482	265,072
Calves.....	27,863	11,539	59,854	30,343
Hogs.....	56,104	49,050	94,059	95,677
Sheep.....	100,949	114,629	226,686	302,284

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*.....	508,041	512,006	1,153,805	1,227,823
Calves.....	297,639	278,108	646,909	623,576
Hogs.....	2,288,294	2,484,040	5,192,907	5,750,049
Sheep.....	1,048,525	840,478	2,159,446	1,881,802

*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.

HIDE SITUATION UNSETTLED

J. E. P.

AN IMPRESSION EXISTS IN TRADE CIRCLES THAT when the tariff wrangle is settled, one way or the other, stability will develop both in hide and leather prices. Leather has made an excellent showing recently, but stocks of raw hides and skins, due to heavy imports, are 17 per cent heavier than a year ago. The tanning concerns without exception have made stereotyped bad statements of earnings for 1929. Apparently free hides have worked more to the advantage of shoe-manufacturers, who are prosperous, than tanners, who have been flirting with the sheriff for several years.

Defeat in the Senate of the proposal for a tariff of 4 cents on green and 8 cents on dry hides set the market back recently. There may be a chance to get hides on the list during the pending conference between the two branches of Congress, but doubt is general. What both hide and leather trades need is removal of pending uncertainty.

Packers are well sold up and in no mood to shade prices at the moment. Importers are firmer in their ideas, and slight improvement is reported across the Atlantic. Packers have now got into April stocks, and there is no accumulation of long-haired, grubby hides holding over the market. Interest has been shown in April productions of independent packers at 12½ cents for all-weight native steers and cows. Packers are getting up to 14 cents for No. 1 heavy hides.

Country stocks are difficult to move. All weights have held about steady at 10½ cents for selected, averaging 48 pounds, and 60-pound cows, and upwards, are quoted at 10 cents for regular accumulations.

LITTLE CONTRACTING OF NEW WOOL

J. E. P.

WOOL AND WHEAT OCCUPY MUCH THE SAME technical position. There is an abundance of both commodities, and both are in the throes of efforts to create new marketing systems. Meanwhile investment, speculation, or whatever term may be appropriate, is at low ebb. The outcome of the pooling experiment—for such it is—elicits much difference of opinion. This experiment could have been made at a more favorable moment; but, if even partly successful, the handicaps it faces will redound to its credit. The logical purpose of pooling is to stabilize or advance prices—a program that necessitates storage and holding. Consequently, the more wool that goes into the pool—which means into strong hands, with government financial backing—the less of the commodity will be found pressing on the market for immediate sale. The outcome of such holding is dubious, depending on consumption, as there can be no decrease in production, which is possible in the case of wheat.

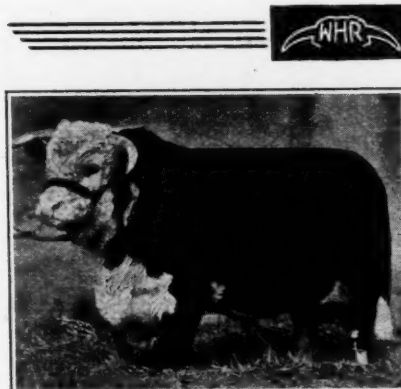
The market has been quiet, which does not mean higher prices. Little contracting of the new clip has been done in the West, and results of the pool campaign for poundage are still obscure, guesses ranging anywhere from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 pounds at the conclusion of the effort. Every pound put into the pool should inject firmness into current prices. At Boston, fine and fine-medium territories have sold around 70 cents, clean basis, for average wools, and 67 cents has been paid for Californias. Foreign markets are steadier.

That the situation is unsettled admits of no dispute. Reiteration that bottom prices have been uncovered does not get credence in some quarters. The Wool and Clothing Research Bureau of America predicts further declines before the inevi-

table upturn develops; but this is merely a guess. With the new clip coming onto the market, some change at no distant date is certain.

Current sales are mainly of the finer grades of combing territory wools, lower grades not being wanted. Quarter and three-eighths bright have changed hands at 32 to 33 cents in the grease, for fair to good wools, at the Atlantic seaboard.

Meanwhile the prospect for much higher prices before the new clip is off the sheep's back is not promising. The situation and the prospect may be summarized as follows: Bradford prices of tops have been at present low levels but once since 1913, or during the spring of 1915, when business was disorganized by commencement of the World War; London prices are in line with latest Australian quotations; effort is to be made to stimulate buying of fabrics by guaranteeing that further price reductions will not be made this season; manufacturers are passing on to middlemen, if not to consumers, reduced wool prices. If the ultimate consumer benefits, this should aid the merchandising prices. The world level of prices is down to a pre-war basis, which should mean stabilization, if not higher prices. Manufacturers have been inquiring for foreign wools, placing sizable orders for Merinos in Australia.



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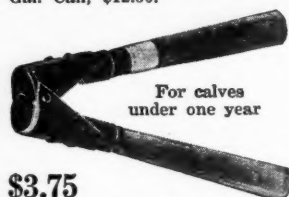
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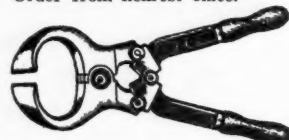
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TRADE REVIEW

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

EXPORTS OF MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND ANIMAL FATS from the United States for the month of February and the two months ending February, 1930, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous year, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Beef, fresh.....	278,810	298,020	524,864	581,810
Beef, pickled.....	650,175	695,714	1,390,244	1,429,313
Beef, canned.....	204,157	279,483	510,035	381,569
Oleo oil.....	4,873,983	4,608,089	9,209,950	9,353,541
Totals.....	6,007,125	5,881,306	11,635,093	11,746,233

PORK PRODUCTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Pork, fresh.....	3,035,027	888,407	5,539,283	2,546,652
Pork, pickled.....	2,263,204	4,535,485	5,254,843	8,176,654
Bacon.....	12,183,535	11,286,136	25,507,746	24,300,610
Cumberland sides.....	383,113	340,022	885,186	590,982
Hams and shoulders.....	9,212,934	7,653,440	18,664,123	18,840,446
Wiltshire sides.....	740,393	205,832	1,164,778	422,233
Sausage, canned.....	151,968	136,796	269,615	327,554
Lard.....	65,953,250	65,923,502	139,244,769	156,060,619
Lard compounds.....	186,474	286,907	510,372	608,143
Neutral lard.....	1,623,600	1,972,738	3,519,476	4,097,370
Totals.....	95,733,498	93,279,265	200,560,191	215,971,263

OUR INTERNATIONAL GRAIN TRADE

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF THE PRINCIPAL grains from and into the United States for the calendar year 1929 are given as below by the Department of Commerce (in bushels):

EXPORTS

	1929	1928
Barley	29,523,077	51,676,724
Malt	3,380,783	3,259,794
Buckwheat	191,141	160,545
Corn	33,745,270	25,800,013
Oats	6,608,727	10,421,056
Rye	3,433,576	14,499,404
Wheat	90,129,600	96,290,418
Totals	167,012,174	202,107,954

IMPORTS

	1929	1928
Corn	407,085	565,228
Oats	111,796	489,368
Wheat	14,575,503	18,847,660
Totals	15,094,384	19,902,258

Meatless Days in Russia

The decision of the Soviet food organizations to prohibit the sale of meat every third day has been confirmed by the authorities in Moscow.

FOREIGN

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, February 15, 1930.

THE 1930 AUSTRALIAN FROZEN-BEEF EXPORT season is opening later than usual. So far only one of the Queensland packing plants has commenced slaughtering, but most of those in the south and central divisions of the state should be in commission by about the middle of March. Those in the far north never expect to open until toward the end of April, and they are not likely to do anything before then this year.

Though nothing definite is known as to the figure which packers intend to pay for fat cattle, it seems fairly certain that they will be obliged to offer at least as much as at the commencement of the 1929 season. The country buying rate in the southern division was then about \$7.20 per 100 pounds, delivered, for lines of bullocks promising a high percentage of g.a.q. beef, and \$6.84 in the central division. It is true that the present oversea market value of frozen beef is higher than that of a year ago, but as a set-off against this is the fact that both hides and tallow are selling for much less. On a moderate estimate, the drop in these by-products represents a depreciation of fully 50 cents per cwt. in the value of beef. It is a gamble whether they will not fall further, and, of course, there is no guarantee that the market for beef will hold.

A factor that may incline packers to pay higher prices for fat cattle this season is the practical certainty that there will be a shortage of suitable stock available for export. The full effect of the losses and small calvings during the drought will be felt this year—so much so that a decrease in killings of about 20 per cent is anticipated. Last season the Queensland meat-works treated 323,653 head of cattle, and, in addition, some 25,765 were slaughtered at the Western Australian government's works at Wyndham, on the northwest coast.

Fortunately for all concerned, splendid rains have fallen in the north during the last couple of months, effectually breaking the long-standing drought in most districts. These should mean the opening of the stock routes, and enable owners to bring in cattle from back runs that have been, to all intents and purposes, shut off for two or three years. The break will also assure a good calving to those who are in the happy position of possessing decent herds of breeders. Unfortunately, many cattlemen in the dry areas have been forced to part with a large proportion of their stock, and will now have to face a long period of painfully slow breeding-up, cows at present prices being beyond the reach of most, with their depleted purses.

No decision has yet been reached on the Brisbane abattoir question, to which reference was made in my December letter. Apparently the cabinet is waiting to receive a sufficiently tempting offer from Swift Australian Company regarding the sale of its meat-works for the proposed central abattoir. Rumor says that \$2,000,000 is the best price that the government will pay, and, in addition, the Swift Company will be expected to spend about \$500,000 in building yards and converting the plant to make it suitable for the local trade.

AGRICULTURAL CRISIS IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE UNITED STATES IS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY with a farm problem. In Scotland, conditions, as described by one of the speakers at a meeting of "landlords, farmers, crofters, and farm servants" in Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, in February, are "simply appalling."

"We seem to be faced," said this gentleman, "with general agricultural bankruptcy. What is to be the future of this country, if that is the case? We shall see the whole of the country one huge desert, with perhaps a few pedigree stock farms dotted here and there, perhaps a few dairy farms, and perhaps a few hen runs around our big towns, and our mansions and parks occupied by industrial magnates as rural retreats. The rest of the country will revert to its primeval state of virgin forest."

Inability to compete with foreign foodstuffs raised under lower production costs, and brought in duty-free, has long given the British husbandman a particularly hard row to hoe. To this must be added, since the war, a staggering tax burden. Lately the policy of certain foreign countries, notably Germany, of offering a bonus on exports of farm products, making Great Britain the dumping-ground for their cereals, has made the crisis even more acute.

Immediate government action in aid of the farmer was demanded at the Inverness meeting, "to put an end, by some means or other, to this system of free imports of goods which are subsidized or in some way compete unfairly with our own native produce."

"When free trade was adopted as the economic policy of this country," declared one speaker, "it was adopted because it was thought to be the particular policy best suited to the circumstances of the times. The original free traders would have repudiated the idea that free trade was necessarily the only policy for all particular times and all particular circumstances, and certainly it was never intended that free trade should be regarded as one of the Ten Commandments."

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Commission Company on the
Denver Market*

in the Bureau of Animal Industry, presents in brief and attractive form a non-technical description of the more important of the plants causing losses among live stock on western ranges, together with the symptoms produced, the time at which losses may be expected to occur, and the means of avoiding them. To facilitate identification, fifty full-page plates, many of them in colors, are inserted. Text figures illustrate the effects on animals of eating the plants.

Plants dealt with are: sleepy grass, arrow grass, death camas, oak, greasewood, the larkspurs, chokecherry, the lupines, poison bean, the loco weeds, astragalus, coyotillo, water hemlock, the heath family, the milkweeds, cocklebur, western sneezeweed, baccharis, Parry aster, Colorado rubber weed, rayless goldenrod, and bracken. The pamphlet shows throughout its seventy-six pages the expert hand of its author and the careful editing of all government publications. It sells for 35 cents, and may be had on application to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

ANAPLASMOSIS

Anaplasmosis is a cattle disease which is on the increase in certain sections of the West. At the convention of the American National Live Stock Association in January, Mr. Thornburg, of Phoenix, Arizona, stated that three outbreaks had occurred in his state in the last three years, causing the loss of

about a hundred head. It was not diagnosed until thirty-three years ago, when it was discovered in South Africa. Today it is found in all European countries and throughout South America. In Kansas it was identified in 1925, and is reported to be spreading there.

The disease is caused by a small parasite which destroys the red blood corpuscles and is transferred from animal to animal by the large horsefly, on the authority of Dr. E. E. Leasure, of the Kansas State Agricultural College. Cows affected with the parasite go off feed, fail in milk production, sometimes become helpless, and die in about half the number of cases. Calves are attacked, but apparently in a milder form, and seem to develop a degree of immunity to the disease. Steers and bulls are less frequently affected.

The only remedy known, according to Dr. Leasure, is the injection of arsenic preparations into the blood-stream. This treatment, however, is difficult to administer, besides being only partially effective.

JOHNE'S DISEASE

Johne's (pronounced "Yonez") disease is believed to be present in practically every one of our states. It is also called "paratuberculosis," and is an incurable, infectious, bacterial dysentery affecting principally cattle, but also found in horses, sheep, and goats. It is supposed originally to have been introduced from Europe.

The first symptoms of Johne's disease are a temporary loss of appetite, and, in cows, a radical diminution of the milk-flow. Intermittent diarrhea usually follows. The coat becomes rough, and the animal looks unthrifty. Affected animals may drink large quantities of water. In the last stages of the disease they become greatly emaciated, and finally die from exhaustion.

Infection is spread from herd to herd through the introduction of diseased animals and by allowing healthy animals to drink from contaminated water. Although no curative treatment is known, temporary relief is sometimes obtained by restricting the feed and placing the animal on a dry ration. The diagnostic test consists of an injection of a biological product known as "johnin." Indemnities, on the same basis as tuberculosis indemnities, are paid to owners of cattle reacting to the test.

Further details may be had in Circular 104-C, "Johne's Disease (Paratuberculosis) of Live Stock," just issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

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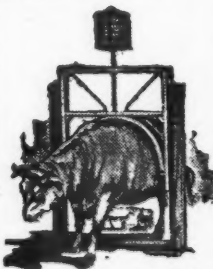
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TENDENCY TOWARD SMALLER RANCHES

In the western range country the tendency is toward operation on a smaller scale, and greater distribution of land-ownership, Virgil V. Parr, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, points out. To maintain profits, he says, it is necessary for the ranchman to pay closer attention to the details of his business and the management of his herds, as well as of the range he owns, controls, or shares with other ranchers. As a rule, ranching now includes more farming and cropping than in the early era of the open range. Ranch acreage is decreasing, but in the northern Great Plains area many ranchmen are adding to their owned holdings by acquiring abandoned homesteads of settlers who have given up their efforts at dry-farming.

In Farmers' Bulletin No. 1395-F, "Beef-Cattle Production in the Range Area," now issued in a revised edition, Mr. Parr has summarized the methods of management which have proved most profitable and satisfactory in the range area. The bulletin is intended as a guide to men engaging in the business, and as an aid to established ranchers in comparing their methods with the best practice.

"The temptation to overstock during years of good prices," Mr. Parr warns, "is one of the most difficult things a cattleman of the western ranges has to overcome. There is a tendency among many to stock heavily during good years, to recover losses sustained during bad

years, and the usual result is that the gamble is carried one year too far, and a repetition of loss occurs generally about the time previous losses are recovered."

For economical feeding, a good stand of forage grasses is highly desirable. Range improvement is good business, either on owned land or by co-operative agreement between cattlemen. "The first essential is to limit the number of stock to approximately the proper carrying capacity. Secondly, the range should be so grazed as to give an opportunity for a high percentage of the palatable vegetation to reach maturity."

The bulletin is available for free distribution to those who apply to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

WHERE THE UNITED STATES LEADS

Occasionally a search through the columns of the *Congressional Record* yields something more substantial than samples of academic eloquence, enlivened with civilities with a purely personal application. In the issue of November 16 we find, among other interesting exhibits, the appended table showing the share of the United States in the world's consumption or use of typical commodities. The table was prepared, at the request of Senator Nye, of North Dakota, by experts in the Department of Commerce:

Approximate Share of United States in World Consumption or Use

	Per Cent
Population	6
Wheat	15
Sugar	23½
Coffee	51
Cotton	26
Wool	17
Silk	72
Rubber	66
Pig iron	43
Copper	43
Lead	36
Zinc	35
Tin	46
Coal	39
Petroleum	61
Water power	35½
Electricity	40
Automobiles (registration)	78
Mail (number of pieces)	34½
Telephones	60
Telegraph messages	25
Railway freight—	
Tons carried	38
Ton-miles	63½
Imports	13

REGULATIONS FOR INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS OF LIVE STOCK

Owners of live stock often have occasion to ship domestic animals from one state to another, and should know what regulations must be observed. These regulations vary somewhat according to whether the animals are intended for breeding, feeding, exhibition, or other purposes. To aid producers and shippers in obtaining information governing each of these cases, the Bureau of Animal Industry has published a circular giving brief statements concerning the essential requirements for animals entering each state. This is Miscellaneous Circular 14-MC, "State Sanitary Requirements Governing Admission of Live Stock," which has just been revised.

4,480-ACRE IMPROVED RANCH

Washington Co., Colo. Eight-room house; cattle barn 30x200 ft.; chicken houses—one 30x200, one 30x75 ft.; two wells and windmills; large cement reservoir; water piped to house, barns, and feed-lots; garage and other necessary improvements; all fenced and cross-fenced; 1,500 acres bottom hay land; 2 to 6 ft. to underflow water; 25 acres fine alfalfa; 100 acres more sown this year. Will run 500 head cattle or 2,000 sheep. More pasture can be leased. 30 miles south, 5 miles east of Brush, Colo. Must have some cash; might consider small trade. Also have a 100- and 240-acre irrigated ranch near Fort Collins, Colo., all clear.

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ROUND THE RANGE

RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK REPORT FOR MARCH

Ranges.—Milder weather in February had opened considerable range feed and

permitted much more grazing than during the previous month, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Range conditions had improved materially in California and west of the Continental Divide. Desert sheep ranges in Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada had been helped by more liberal stock water. In Texas, feed had started, and rain was needed to keep weeds and grass growing. Early feed prospects were generally good, as most range sections had ample moisture.

Cattle.—Cattle had improved slightly in condition during February, following severe weather in January. There were but few thin cattle, and losses had been light. In Texas, cattle had shrunk heavily during January and were not up to normal in condition. Cattle in feed-lots had made good gains.

Sheep.—Sheep showed slight gains during February, and in the northern areas were in better condition than a year ago. In Texas, sheep had declined. California sheep and early lambs had improved with better feed. Breeding ewes were generally in good flesh, and losses had been light. There had been little activity in wool-contracting, with practically no offers on the 1930 clip. Considerable wool was being signed up for consignment. Lambs in feed-lots had made good gains and had overcome some of the earlier setbacks.

EARLY SPRING LAMB CROP

The early lamb crop of 1930 in the principal early lambing states as a whole is somewhat larger than the early crop of 1929, according to reports received by the Department of Agriculture. In general, condition of the early lambs has been considerably better than at the same date a year ago, when it was below average. Present prospects are for a larger market supply of spring lambs than last year for the three months, April to June, and the quality will be average or better.

Here's Your Chance.—Chairman—"I wish to announce that on Wednesday evening the Ladies' Aid will have a jumble sale. This is a chance for all the

ladies of the congregation to get rid of anything that is not worth keeping, but is too good to be thrown away. Don't forget to bring your husbands."—*North Cheshire Herald (England).*

Twisted in Transmission.—Fritz—"Did you hear dat noise?"
Heinie—"Vot noise?"
Fritz—"Illinois."
Heinie—"Schust you vait! I rig dat on mine boy. Henry, come you here!"
Henry—"Vot you vant, fodder?"
Heinie—"Did you hear dat racket?"
Henry—"Vot racket?"
Heinie—"Illinois."—*Gargoyle.*

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Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas

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Consequently any program of organization under the Agricultural Marketing Act which does not effectively help the live-stock producers to realize a greater return on their time and money invested is falling short of the intent and purposes of the Act.

Full benefits under the Agricultural Marketing Act cannot be obtained, however, for this three-billion-dollar live stock business unless the producers organize and co-operate with the Farm Board.

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

with the following marketing agencies:

Producers Commission Association
Indianapolis, Indiana

Producers Commission Association
Kansas City, Missouri

Producers Live Stock Commission Association
National Stock Yards, Illinois

Peoria Producers Commission Association
Peoria, Illinois

Producers Co-operative Commission Association
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Producers Commission Association
Sioux City, Iowa

Producers Co-operative Commission Association
Buffalo, New York

Chicago Producers Commission Association
Chicago, Illinois

Producers Co-operative Commission Association
Cincinnati, Ohio

Producers Co-operative Commission Association
Cleveland, Ohio

Michigan Live Stock Exchange
Detroit, Michigan

Evansville Producers Commission Association
Evansville, Indiana

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